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Our front cover illustration shows a member of the 15th King's Light Dragoons (Hussars) re-enactment group (see page 25).

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EDITOR'S NOTES



Wilf Charles (right), proprietor of Present Arms Ltd of Hereford, met up with the winner of our 'Silver Vickers' competition, Bob Bush, at the Imperial War Museum in Lambeth recently. Bob has bought 'MI' since issue #1 and has an entire room in his home devoted to books and magazines on military affairs, guns and shooting. Congratulations, Bob!

WE REGRET — and sincerely mean that — the necessity for increasing the cover price of *MI* from this issue. We have held the increase down to the minimum possible and would like to assure readers that this is not to increase profit, but merely to cope with increased costs incurred over the last 12 months. The UK subscription rate has also had to rise to £35 for one year (12 issues), £65 for two years. Overseas subscriptions (which had to be raised a couple of months ago due to increased postal charges) remain unchanged.

A selection of 'Miniature Military Drums' from D.P. & G.



tume and visitors are encouraged to join in.

Those readers wishing to enter any one of the ten classes of figure painting, wargaming or costume reconstruction competitions are urged to contact Dan Allen on 0635 48628 for full details as soon as possible.

Enthusiasts for American militia will be interested to learn that the firm Battle Orders Ltd are now offering a quality reproduction of the US cavalry sabre, as used in the Indian wars, the Civil War and through to present-day ceremonial duties. The replica features the correct 34-inch slim, curved steel blade with three-branched brass hilt, black bound with red wire handle and brushed steel scabbard with hanger mounts as on the original. Cost is £65 from Battle Orders Ltd, 71A Eastbourne Road, Lower Willingdon, East Sussex BN20 9NR.

Another tantalising offer comes from the firm D.P. & G. of PO Box 186, Doncaster, South Yorks DN4 0HN. Under two labels, 'Miniature Military Headdress' and 'Miniature Military Drums', they offer 1/5 scale replicas of headdress and drums in limited edition series or produced to order. The headdress items are metal-cast, hand-painted and, in the case of helmets, gold or silver plated and hand-polished. The drums are hand-turned and drilled from hardwood and painted before the miniature leather sliders are sewn on and cords strung. Again, non-stock items can be ordered to your own requirements. Cost of the hats and helmets is £34.50 (plus £12.50 for a stand and engraved nameplate); for the drums £40.00 plus £7.50. These prices are for stock items, special orders will be usually more, and in all cases delivery time is four to six weeks.

We have also received the latest catalogue from Flapstock Ltd of Shucklow Building, Little Horwood, Milton Keynes MK17 0PT, who offer an enormous range of raw and shaped metal components as well as tools and metal-working accessories, taps, dies, drills, etc., for modellers. The firm is a bulk steel and non-ferrous metal stockholder and is able to supply off-the-shelf items which might otherwise take quite a bit of searching time to locate. Their catalogue is free if you telephone 0296 713631.

Can I finally enter a plea for all individuals, societies and firms wishing a mention in this column to get their notices to me at least two months before their event; ie, to get a mention in the January issue, I need your details by 1 November. I have been unable to include details of several recent events because they would have been over before the next issue appeared! Thank you.

Bruce Quarrie

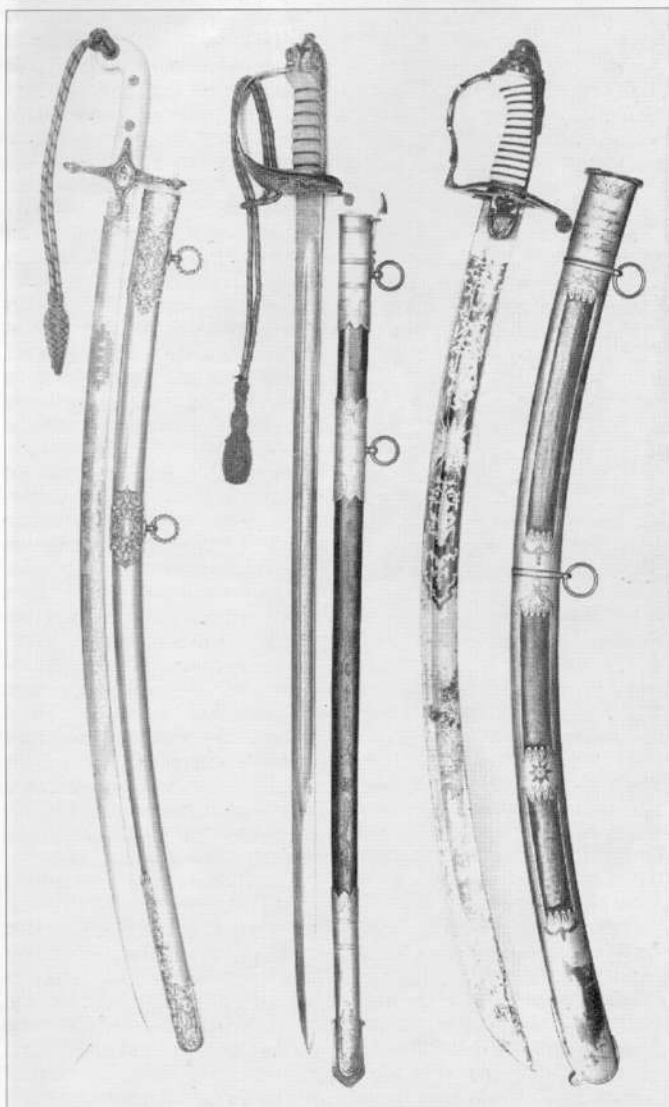
FOR ANTIQUE dealers and collectors probably the most important recent piece of news has been the announcement that Sotheby's are to raise their buyers' premium. Until the 1970s when auctions were far more sedate and gentlemanly than they are now and sale prices were usually given in guineas, the only amount a buyer paid was the figure at which the hammer descended and the auctioneer said 'Yours sir'. Then, in the face of strong objections from the trade, the major auction houses introduced a 10% buyer's premium. Despite the ill feeling that this move generated it gradually became commonly accepted practice and it became important to remember that the successful bid was, in fact, going to be increased by a fixed 10% when the bill came to be settled.

Now Sothebys are making the buyers' premium a standard 15% and, as was to be expected, there was an outcry from the dealers in fine pictures. It is in their field that the top prices occur and an extra 5% on £1m is something that cannot easily be ignored.

The average dealer or collector buying something around £300 will now have to pay an extra £15 plus a few extras like VAT and so on — not a fortune, but for a dealer buying several items the figures begin to mount up. How will it affect Sotheby's trade? Will it mean that dealers will tend to avoid the rooms? Will vendors be reluctant to put items in for sale fearing that the extra premium will put off buyers? The obvious consequence would appear to be that there will be an increase in items going to Christies. However, the financial pundits seem to think that the market will force other rooms such as Christies to follow suit in the not too distant future. It is going to be a matter of wait and see. In the past Christies dropped their buyers' premium from 10% to 8% hoping to increase their turn-over, but in fact there was little improvement and presumably not enough to make up for the lost revenue because they put it back up to 10% soon afterwards. Vendors will still pay 10% on most losses but some of the lower priced items will rate a 15% premium. However, this is often negotiable, especially if there are a number of objects being offered for sale. The bottom line of all these financial plans will almost certainly mean that the price to the customer will rise — it always does. The general state of the antique market can be assessed by the fact that although Sotheby's increased their sales by \$16 million their losses have increased from \$11 million to \$13 million.

The new changes in premiums were not coming into operation until January 1993 which meant

THE AUCTION SCENE



Left to right *Levée sword of the 18th Hussars with the cypher of Edward VII, and known to have belonged to D. Lawrence who was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1900 (£1,750); the sword of Lieutenant Drewry, another winner of the Victoria Cross during the Gallipoli landings in 1915. He was a member of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve and presented with the sword by the Imperial Merchant Service Guild (£1,400); another presentation sword given by the officers of the Dublin County Regiment to Coll Vessy on 12 May 1802. The blade is blued and gilt and the scabbard is of copper gilt with red leather insets. (£3,400). (Wallis and Wallis.)*

they were too late to affect Sotheby's sale of arms, armour, militaria and sporting guns at their Sussex Rooms at Billingham on Thursday, 3 December. There were some 200 lots of arms and armour, about the same number of medal lots and around 100 sporting and vintage firearms.

A little distance away at Lewes, Wallis and Wallis held their Connoisseur Sale early in October. These sales have established a very good reputation and are attracting some very fine items. The catalogue was very well illustrated with fine colour plates and all the items were of good quality and were well described so that it is not surprising that there were some very good

prices. Even so, about 15% of the lots failed to sell.

Pride of place went to a flintlock rifle which made £7,300; this high price was achieved because it was a fine example of an early and very effective breech-loading weapon. It was fitted with a coarse threaded screw plug which was rotated by the trigger guard to give direct access to the breech and was based on the design of Patrick Ferguson, a Captain in the British Army. It was an efficient weapon and Ferguson demonstrated it in pouring rain as well as showing that it could easily be loaded by a soldier lying prone — an extremely difficult task with a muzzle-loading weapon when a ramrod had to be used. Despite its high rate of fire and other virtues the British Board of Ordnance purchased only a handful for the Army and these saw service in the American War of Independence (which also saw the death of Ferguson in action). Apart from those purchased by the Army a number were made for the civilian market. This example was made by the famous London maker Durs Egg.

There was another reminder of the American War with one of the helmets, for the designer was Tarleton — an active officer in that campaign. It was one of the earliest cavalry helmets worn by the British army and was copied by many of the Napoleonic Volunteers. This example, which sold for £3,900, was worn by an officer of the Abingdon Volunteer Cavalry. Uniforms did well and that of a Lieutenant-Colonel of The 2nd West York Artillery Volunteers with the blue cloth helmet, sabretache and back pouch went for £1,200.

A group of Colt percussion revolvers demonstrated that these weapons retain their popularity by selling very well. All were in good condition with varying amounts of original finish. A 31 Pocket Model made £480, an 1851 Navy Model sold for a good £1,800 and an engraved presentation model soared to £2,200. Edged weapons



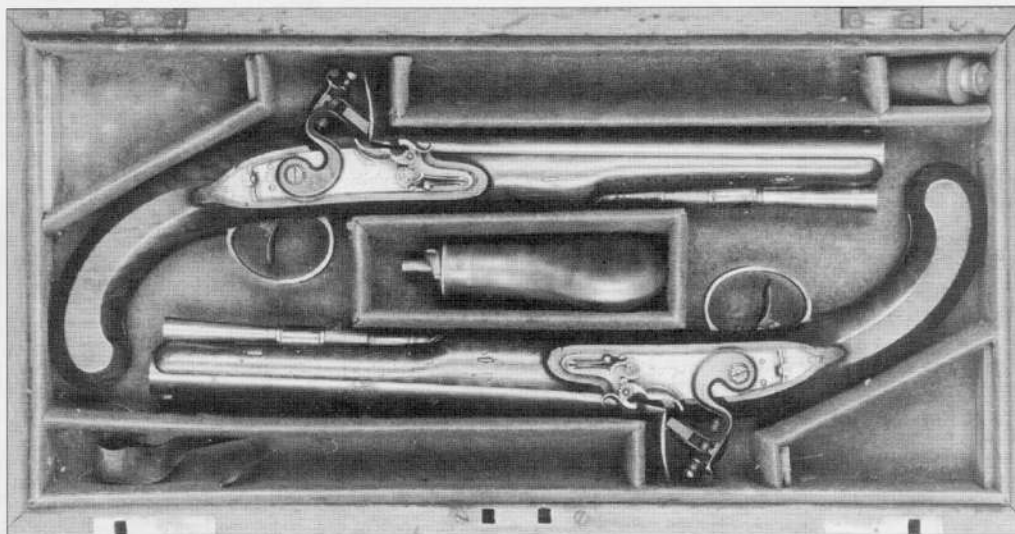
A Tarleton helmet with leather skull and peak, silver plated binding and a turban of black velvet and black bearskin crest. At the front is a long scroll with the legend 'Abingdon Volr. Cav. April 1794'. A particularly good example of this type of helmet normally worn by regular units but favoured by many volunteer units. (Wallis and Wallis.)

were by no means neglected and a Georgian Irish presentation sabre of 1802 sold for £3,400.

The medal section was quite small but on 10 November Christie's had an impressive sale of over 500 lots of medals, orders and decorations. Among the lots were many medals from the collection of Alec Purves, a name familiar to everybody with an interest in medals and collecting. His recent death was mourned by the collecting groups and his medals offered for sale reflected his broad interests. The catalogue was a mine of information and represented a tremendous amount of research by the cataloguers who unearthed so many photographs and biographical details of the various recipients. Medals seem to be one of the few groups that have not suffered too much in the current recession — or is it now a depression? It will be interesting to see if this sale maintains that position.

Frederick Wilkinson

A cased pair of flintlock duelling pistols by the London maker Probin from the Billingham Sale in December and estimated at £1,000-£1,500. (Sotheby's.)



ON THE SCREEN



Video Releases to Buy
Lawrence of Arabia
 (Columbia/Tristar: PG)
Glory (Columbia/Tristar: 15)
Henry V (Columbia/Tristar: PG)
The Longest Day (Fox Video: PG)
Tora! Tora! Tora! (Fox Video: U)
Knight Without Armour
 (Central: PG)
Lady Hamilton (Central: PG)
Napoleon 1812 — The Road to Moscow (Cromwell)
World War One — The Fight for the Skies (Castle)
Aircraft Carrier (Castle)
Vietnam — The Chopper War (Castle)

THE CINEMATIC highlight of 1989 was arguably the restoration of David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia* which featured Peter O'Toole in the title role. The film ran for 222 minutes at its premiere in 1962, but lost some 20 minutes for its general release. A later American re-issue resulted in the loss of a further 15 minutes. Robert A. Harris, supported by Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese, persuaded Dawn Steel, head of Columbia Pictures, to agree to the project. Lean became involved and trimmed the film of 6 minutes to give the 215 minute definitive director's cut, released theatrically in 1989. None of the lost footage was crucial, but their restoration clarified certain points. For example, an early scene showing Lawrence painting a map in Cairo reveals his knowledge both of cartography and Arab affairs.

Columbia Tristar have now released this on video. It last 217 minutes, allowing for the faster speed that film runs on video, and the inclusion of the opening overture, intermission and play-out music which are heard over a blank screen. It is commendably being made available in a widescreen version, thus retaining the original magnificent panoramic composi-

tions. This is without doubt the way this kind of film should be presented on video.

Columbia Tristar are also re-releasing a number of titles in the widescreen format, including Oliver Stone's *Platoon* (1986) (reviewed M113), Kenneth Brannagh's *Henry V* (1989) (reviewed M123) and Edward Zwick's *Glory* (1990) (reviewed M126).

Fox Video are also re-releasing two familiar World War II movies in the widescreen format; Ken Annakin, Bernhard Wicki and Andrew Marton's *The Longest Day* (1962) and Richard Fleischer, Toshio Masuada and Kinji Fukasada's *Tora! Tora! Tora!* (1970) (both reviewed M143).

Central have re-released a trio of films produced under the auspices of London Films, a company based at Denham studios and created by Hungarian immigrant Alexander Korda. Jacques Feyder's *Knight Without Armour* (1936), based on a novel by James Hilton, concerns an English journalist, Ainsley Fothergill (Robert Donat), who is assigned to Russia in 1913. He is persuaded by the British Secret Service to spy on Russian revolutionaries, but is wrongly imprisoned for the attempt to assassinate a Russian minister. By 1917 he is with the Red Army, but rescues Russian countess Alexandra Vladinoff (Marlene Dietrich) when her estate is plundered. They have a perilous journey to make in order to reach safety in Budapest.

During the war, Korda worked in America where he could utilise better studio facilities and involve himself in intelligence activities at the request of Winston Churchill. While there, Korda produced and directed *Lady Hamilton* (US title *That Hamilton Woman*) (1941). It tells the story of Emma Hamilton (Vivien Leigh) from her first meeting with Horatio Nelson (Laurence Olivier) at the home of her husband Charles, the British ambas-

A scene from *Lawrence of Arabia*.

sador to Naples in 1793, to her end, alone and destitute. Although primarily a romance, the film features a lively recreation of the Battle of Trafalgar, shot in a studio tank with the aid of dinghy sized models. The film was a favourite of Churchill, who originally suggested the subject and allegedly wrote some of the speeches.

The trio is completed by Zoltan Korda's magnificent Sudan war adventure *The Four Feathers* (1939) (reviewed M114). All three of these Korda productions benefit from a good story, a capable cast and excellent production values.

Readers of M1 will doubtless be interested in a new series of military history videos produced by Cromwell Productions Ltd. First to be released is *Napoleon — 1812 The Road to Moscow* which tells the story of Napoleon's invasion of Russia. The commentary, narrated by actor Robert Powell, explains how the war was precipitated by Czar Alexander's refusal to comply with Napoleon's Continental System, a trade embargo intended to weaken Britain economically.

The majority of the programme deals with the invasion, the battle of Borodino, the burning of Moscow, and the disastrous retreat which resulted in the virtual destruction of the Grande Armée.

The familiar story is enlivened by considerable stock footage from Sergei Bondarchuk's spectacular film *War and Peace* (*Voina i Mir* 1963-67). So much is used that one wonders what producer Bob Carruthers would have done had this not been available. Indeed, Bondarchuk and Vacheslav Tihonov are clearly visible in their character roles of Pierre Bezukhov and Andrei Bolkonsky.

The battle footage well conveys the scale of the fighting at Borodino, but Bondarchuk's impressionistic filming of the battle does not lend itself to illustrating the tactical details. In contrast, the Battle of Beresina, not featured in Bondarchuk's film, is conveyed from prints and paintings. The personal experience of the campaign is evoked by an actor, dressed in the uniform of the Imperial Guard, quoting Sergeant Bourgogne's diary, one of the most famous narratives of the campaign by a survivor. The video also features comments by well-known Napoleonic historian and author Dr David Chandler, Head of the Department of War Studies at Sandhurst. This is a well presented and interesting video which makes one look forward to the promised further releases with some anticipation.

Castle Vision have extended their *War File* range of videos with three more titles, as usual narrated by actor Patrick Allen. *World War One — The Fight for the Skies* tells the story of aerial combat over the Western Front. It places this in the context of events on the ground but devotes little time to individual personalities, with the exception of Von Richtofen. *Aircraft Carrier* concentrates on the use of the aircraft carrier in the Pacific theatre of World War Two, to the virtual exclusion of the Royal Navy. It concludes with a hasty appraisal of its use in Korea, Vietnam and the Falklands. *Vietnam — The Chopper War* describes the contribution made by the helicopter in Vietnam, the development of air mobility divisions, and the formation and deployment of the 1st US Cavalry division. The narration describes this in the context of the development of the war, but ends abruptly after the Tet Offensive.

Stephen J. Greenhill

A scene from *Lady Hamilton*.



EURO-MILITAIRE '92

JOHN REGAN

MORE THAN 600 entries in the competitions and a profusion of new products on the trade stands made the seventh Euro-Militaire a really outstanding event.

*David Mencia Dominguez's
'The Mameluk' won a worthy
Gold in Class 1B.*



'CARRY ON' actress Barbara Windsor had been wowing her audience just a short while before, while the 'Bootleg Beatles' and the Band of the US Army (Europe) would be stirring hearts and memories with-in the next few weeks. But for a great many people the Show of the Year at the Leas Cliff Halls, Folkestone, took place on 26 and 27 September when the seventh Euro-Militaire came to town, bringing with it its traditional clear blue skies and sunshine after weeks of clouds, storms and record rainfalls.

Once more the show seemed to excel itself with so much to see that it was almost impossible to take in all that was on offer in the allotted two days. The auditorium of the main hall was packed with some 70 trade stands offering every conceivable item any modeller could possibly desire, including an exciting selection of new figures. The most impressive of these had to be David Grieve's superb large-scale figure of H.M. The Queen in the uniform of the Grenadier Guards and mounted on Burmese, her companion on so many Birthday Parades.

Where 120mm resin figures are concerned, Mike French of Tiny Troopers just get better and better. New from him are a magnificent Lord Chelmsford, of Zulu War fame, and from the same campaign, an equally impressive officer of 91st Highlanders with a striking leopard skin puggaree to his foreign service helmet and casually leaning on an inverted assegai.

From Thistle Miniatures came an officer of the Cameronians (Scottish Rifles) 1968 that could be completed in either tropical or temperate mess dress. And there was also a delightful character, a bearded veteran corporal of 1st City of Edinburgh Rifle Volunteer Corps, 1860. This latter figure was reminiscent of one of sculptor John Barber's earlier creations that took the Under Two Flags trophy at the BMSS Annual Competitions some years ago.

Publishers Windrow & Greene were showing proofs of three forthcoming titles that modellers will find hard to resist. Due out in time for Christmas was *ZULU*—what is claimed to be the definitive study of the actions at Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift—and Bill Horan's *Military Model Showcase*, picturing the work of many of the world's top modellers. Then in February '93 we are promised a 'visual

encyclopaedia of Native Tribes of North America'. The proofs of Richard Hook's artwork for this were absolutely stunning and will surely prove invaluable to the growing band of Plains Indian devotees.

Two other most welcome new exhibitors I spotted were the Premier Engraving Co, whose crisply lettered name plaques now grace many modellers' work, and 'The Fusilier', alias top modeller Steve Warrilow who was launching an exciting new range of 75mm World War I figures. These proved extremely popular as Steve had evidently sold his complete stock long before the show closed!

As usual organisers Historex and Poste Militaire were not only under siege as enthusiasts clamoured for their products, but had also once again provided several magnificent displays for visitors to the show and local residents alike. These included the superb drill and deafening cannon firing by La Garde Imperiale, a pipe and drum band, a medieval re-enactment group and, on Sunday, marching and counter-marching by the 60-strong band of the Duke of York's Royal Military School.

However, it was, as always, the competitions hall that generated the most excitement, not least with the display cases given over to the work of such brilliant exponents of the hobby as Peter Wilcox, Gill Watkin-John, Gary Joslyn, Martin Livingstone, Trevor Morgan, Geoffrey Illsley and Tony Greenland. Then, an especial thrill and privilege was provided by a panoramic showcase of Mike Taylor's exquisite flats, including 'The Flight from Amarna', the very first figures that Mike painted in 1983.

And so to the competitions. Well, with once again over 600 entries in the 17 classes it is obviously only possible to highlight just a few of the models that caught my eye.

Class 1 (for single painted and unaltered figures) was split into two sections—for those up to, and those over 65mm. In the first section I spotted a most attractive entry by **P. Ferro** 'Italian Navy officer, China 1900' was a really lovely little figure, well painted and imaginatively presented. There he stood, arms akimbo, head shaded by a large straw 'coolie' hat and with a loosely tied bow at the neck of his white shirt. His naval frock coat was unbuttoned to reveal a pale blue cummerbund from which was suspended a holster. One felt

that here was a veteran who had really 'got his knees brown'. However, it was the setting that made the piece, for he was standing in front of what appeared to be a very hastily constructed barricade consisting of a wagon wheel, battered chest of drawers and old stove topped by a once elegant chair, upturned and with a coiled spring bursting from the upholstery, while on the ground lay a broken oriental sword and circular yellow shield emblazoned with an incongruous smiling face! The other figure in this section that really attracted me was 'Vittoria 1813' by **Miguel Filipe Carrascal**. A British infantry officer stands in the thick of battle in the act of firing his pistol. The painting was superb, both in the flatness and subtlety of the uniform colours and in the weathering and bloodstains of his dusty trousers and boots. Groundwork, too, was just right—behind him a shattered and stunted tree and beneath his feet a spent cannonball and discarded French pouch.

In the larger section we saw the first two of a number of entries from **Phil Kessling** from the USA, whose first trip to Euro-Militaire this was. And he certainly started well, receiving the Crimean War Research Society's Award for his Tiny Troopers '7th Lancer Officer, Crimea'. The muted blue-grey of his tunic and the distressed state of his overalls had been beautifully painted as had Phil's other figure in this section of a 'Lifeguard Officer on campaign'. However, it was **David Mencia Dominguez** whose Poste Militaire 'The Mamaluks' stood out as a really superb example of pure painting, particularly the delicacy and conviction of the gold lace decoration on his deep red tunic.

In **Class 2** (single commercial mounted figure) **Lee Chandler** had been quick off the mark with 'Trooping the Colour', one of David's Grieve's new royal portraits (see above). **Derek Hansen** had entered 'Trompette due 19^e Regiment de Dragons 1807' which took a Silver in this class. This elegant Napoleonic cavalryman was mounted on a brilliantly dappled grey while the painting of the yellow and green of his habit and of the saddlery was just about perfection!

Class 3 (single converted/scratchbuilt foot figure up to 65mm) really took off with a tremendous array of superlative work. **Mike Good**, another famed American modeller, took the David Grieve Award

with 'Naval Brigade Trooper, Sudan'. Based on one of David's range, this was a very convincing, smiling figure, blanket roll worn bandolier-fashion and carrying his Martini-Henry at the trail. An unusual period for **Keith Engledow** was represented by his 'German Mercenary c1630'. He sat casually perched on a log, the spoils of war—coins, a crucifix and gold cup—spread out on a white cloth before him. His morion helmet, huge turned down boots, leather jerkin, belts and slashed pantaloons had all been beautifully handled, but just didn't catch the judges' eye. The same went for **David Jones'** 'Celtic Chieftain, Bohemia 1100 BC'. With skin cloak draped over his shoulders and subtly painted green and black tunic, his heavily mustached face glowered at the viewer while he brandished a wicked-looking bronze-headed club. A Bronze went to **Philippe Gengember** for '17th Lancer, Zululand 1879'. This half-kneeling figure with drawn sword and raised revolver was placed in beautifully modelled rocky landscape. Another nicely animated subject was 'Difiance', an officer of the King's German Legion in the Peninsular. Bare headed and ashen-faced, he staggered across a piece of rough terrain, his overalls torn and dishevelled—a nice model worthy of its Silver. **Adrian Bay** was much in evidence here, his 'Lt. Crowe VC' taking a Bronze and 'Adrianix' (see *MI* 49 and 50) a Gold. Another of his models, 'Adrias the Spartan' was a brand new figure and received a judges' commendation. The stubby chin and screaming mouth could only just be glimpsed beneath the nasal bar and cheek pieces of his Spartan helmet, but the superbly muscled sword arm and thighs had been splendidly represented. Another Silver winner in this class was, for me, one of the great models in the show. This was by **Stefan Mueller-Herdmartens** and was of 'Havildar, 1st Gurkha Regt 1868'. Standing ramrod straight with swagger cane tucked under his arm, a waxed moustache bristled on his upper lip. What a character and what a fabulously modelled and painted piece!

Class 4 (single converted/scratchbuilt mounted figure up to 65mm) amazingly failed to produce any Gold awards. There were three Bronzes—for **Adrian Bay's** 'Ramage VC' and 'Ottavio Piccolomini' by **Martin**

Livingstone (both seen at this year's BMSS Annual Competitions) and for 'Suebian Chieftain 172 AD' by **Peter Jones**. This chieftain, astride a grey charging across a bleak and snowy landscape, sported a shaggy fur cape over his shoulders while the superbly modelled bearded face, with hair knotted above one ear, was set in the most intense expression, every fibre concentrating on the job in hand.

In my book I feel that the Silver in this class should have read 'Gold'! It was by **Adrian Bay** again and depicted a 'Hun Nobleman'. Leaning back and twisting in the saddle, he is caught in the act of drawing back his bow, while his horse (an Airfix conversion) goes full tilt. The face (using the Historex shouting head) had been so skillfully adapted and looked really evil... Incidentally, the bowstring was evidently fashioned from one of Adrian's wife's hairs! When you think what our wives have to put up with!

Mike Blank's 'Knight Hospitaller, the Holy Land' had earned him Best of Show at Glasgow's Soldiers '92 Show earlier in the year but, sadly, was unplaced in **Class 5** (single scratchbuilt/converted figure over 70mm). However, it was an outstanding figure, the masterful handling of the weathering of the plain black garb an object lesson for us all. A Silver went to **Peter Wilcox** for his 'Gallic Assault Leader' and what a figure it was! With a blue and white cloak tied loosely about his tattooed shoulders, the typical brilliant Wilcox blond moustached face was surmounted by a bronze helmet which boasted the most amazing decorative horns. But it was the Gold winner in this class which for many present, was the star of the show. **Julian Hullis** has done it again with 'Aztec', an absolutely incredible tour-de-force. The figure, seated on the ground, one leg bent, and other tucked under him, a leopard skin draped around his shoulders, was clasping a short hafted spear. Every detail was stunning from the raised tribal markings and 'skewer' through the Concorde-like nose to the open toed leopard skin boots.

In fact, it was **Class 6** (single converted/scratchbuilt mounted figure over 70mm) which produced the Best of Show. This was 'Jacques de Brimeu' by **Philippe Gengembre**, a magnificent mounted knight with beautifully painted white surcoat and white caparisoned



Julian Hullis' 'Aztec', for many people the star of the show.

charger. But it was the brilliantly matched heraldic birds of prey, the Knight's coat of arms, that swayed the judges to present not only the top award but a clutch of other prizes as well.

In the **Vignette Class A**, **Statham** entered 'Return from No Man's Land — the Somme, summer 1916'. A tommy staggers through the glutinous mud carrying a badly wounded and heavily bandaged comrade on his back. The look of grim determination on the rescuer's face had been very well done but, sadly, the model was unplaced. But it was 'La Reconquista' by **Jean Pierre Duthilleul** that took a Gold. The model depicted a fragment of the interior of a tent. Superbly detailed banners hung from the tent frame while a Crusader and a Saracen sat on a mattress, playing chess. Around them were distributed shields, a drum and the Crusader's campaign chest acting as a table with ewer and cups atop. The Crusader was reclining against cushions while the Saracen

pondered his next move — a lovely little scene.

There were few entries in the **Diorama Class** but it was a pleasure to see 'The Greasy Grass', **Steve Warrilow's** interpretations of Custer's last stand in 1876. Thirteen figures were displayed on a circular base, every one a distinct character and all excellently animated, earning Steve a judges' commendation.

For me **Class 9** (boxed dioramas) was one of the highlights of the competitions and contained four splendid examples that, surprisingly, only managed to gain one Bronze and three commendations. 'Caught in the act' by **John Schley** was viewed through a deeply recessed opening and depicted the interior of a World War II German coastal pillbox. One of the look-outs is asleep on his bunk while the other, supposedly on watch, is sitting at the table and has succumbed to a little 'shut-eye'. Unfortunately for him a none-too-happy officer has just entered stage left! The beautifully detailed interior was outstanding with a minute pair of spectacles on the table and an old gramophone, jug,

bowl and towel and other items scattered around. But it was the brilliant handling of the sparkling sea seen through the open 'slit' that really put the gilt on the gingerbread!

Ernie Mirfin's 'Death of Nelson' was based on the famous painting where the anxious crew cluster around the dying Admiral. The scene appears to be lit solely by a hanging lantern and those carried by two seamen — another excellent example of this very specialised artform. On an altogether larger scale was 'At the end of the day' by **Stuart McPherson**, by far the largest of the boxes on view, depicting the interior of one of the assembly shops at Woolwich Arsenal in the 1914-18 war. A 9 inch calibre railway gun was under construction and gun, workshop and large machines were all scratchbuilt. It was an absolute mass of fascinating detail and superbly lit to capture perfectly the sweatshop atmosphere. You could almost smell the oil and feel the grime. Finally 'Tauchen! Tauchen! Tauchen!', the interior of a U-boat making an emergency dive and modelled by



P. Ferro's 'Italian Navy officer, China 1900'.

Mike Taylor for his breathtaking 'Napoleonics'. In the centre of the presentation was a large scale figure of a seated pensive Napoleon while around him were placed his Marshals — and every figure a masterpiece.

Busts were popular in the **Miscellaneous Military Figures Class** and it was **Mike Good** who struck Gold with 'Werner Voss' demonstrating superbly painted field grey tunic and flesh tones. However, it was the Bronze-awarded bust of 'Roman AD' by **Peter Robinson** that I thought was absolutely gorgeous. You could just imagine this warrior staring out from the ramparts of Hadrian's Wall. A fantastic weathered and frowning face, every crease and wrinkle subtly accentuated — just lovely!

Finally the **Pot-Pourri Class** and 'Summertime' by **Gillian Watkin-John** was a delight. A lovely little croquet player in pale green long dress sprigged with a minute rose pattern, shoulders her mallet and views the next hoop. **Geoffrey Illsley** took Silver with a superb Blackfoot squaw of 1874. Entitled 'Walks Far Woman', she was clad in beaded and del-

icately fringed clothing, a quirt (or goad) made from a deer's foreleg and hoof hanging from her wrist while the other hand held the single rein of a magnificent appaloosa pony. On its back was an Indian woman's frame saddle and buckskin saddle cloth, the textures of all the fabrics and other surfaces superbly executed. And a second Gold went to **Jean Pierre Duthilleul** for 'La Fumerie Marocain' in which a cowed figure relaxes on a wooden settle as he smokes from an incredibly long-stemmed pipe. Every detail of this enchanting piece was beautifully handled and, in fact, was a perfect three-dimensional representation of an oil painting by one Ludwig Deutsch, faithfully reproducing the original in just about every loving detail.

So another tremendously successful show drew to a close with the Awards ceremony and here, one again, the sponsors demonstrated the care with which they plan the whole event. This year the prizes were presented by Baron Gourgaud whose ancestor, General Gourgaud, had been the Emperor's aide-de-camp and had accompanied him into exile on St Helena. What a fitting ending to a superb weekend! **MI**

American **Dennis Levy** took the Bronze. And how well it had been done. Viewed through a small rectangle, deeply recessed, all was action as the commander bawls orders and the crew rush to their stations amidst a welter of pipes, wheels and dials. Once again the lighting was superb and contributed greatly to a memorable model.

Class 10 (single flat figures) saw the two foremost 'flats' painters once again in contention. **Mike Taylor** finally took a Bronze with an exquisite 'Napoleon I' (in coronation robes) while **Jim Woodley** repeated his BMSS Annual Competitions success by receiving a Gold with 'The Personal Standard of Charles the Bold'.

In **Class II** (for flat figure groups) roles were reversed though how the judges were able to choose between the two war elephants that were displayed side-by-side, with **Jim Woodley** gaining a Bronze and **Karl Wardle** a Silver, I'll never know. Still, there was no doubt about the Gold which went to



Adrian Bay's superb 'Hun Nobleman'. (All photos courtesy Poste Militaire/Historex.)

The London Regiment (2): City Battalions

RAY WESTLAKE

IN THIS second article on the London Regiment, we examine the histories of the eight City battalions, their changes of title, battle honours and uniform distinctions.

IN THIS ATTEMPT to record the histories of each battalion only the briefest of detail can be given in the space available. It is felt that to project the local spirit of the units mention must be made of locations of headquarters and where possible the type of men that enrolled. The titles held by each battalion are listed in full and from this it is hoped readers will be able to better understand the complicated series of numbers that were held by most battalions.

For each battalion complete volumes could (and have) been written covering their service during the First World War. Here, it is hoped, simple reference to higher formations, theatres of war and each unit's battle honours, will be sufficient to provide the reader with an account of what these heroic battalions achieved.

Records of uniform and badges also represent volumes of work and only the briefest of detail has been given.

Silver pouch belt plate, 20th Middlesex RV (John Byrne Collection.)

1st (City of London) Battalions (Royal Fusiliers)

Titles: 1859, 19th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1880, 10th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1883, 1st Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers; 1908, 1st (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1922, 1st City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1937, 8th (1st City of London) Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers.

The first company of the 19th

Pouch belt plate, 6th Tower Hamlets RV. (John Byrne Collection.)



Silver (gilt grenade) pouch belt plate, 3rd London RV. (John Byrne Collection.)



Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps was raised in London at the Working Men's College in Great Ormond Street, its members being recruited from the staff and students. As an evening school the college was run in the main by part-time staff, and one of these was Thomas Hughes — a Queen's Council but best known as

author of *Tom Brown's Schooldays*.

Credited as its founder, Hughes was to take command of the Corps and play an important role in its growth — three companies were soon existing at the college and others later followed outside at Price's Works, a candle manufacturer at Battersea, St John's Institute in Cleveland Square, the Literate Institution, in Paddington (two) and within the parishes of St Luke's and St Anne's in Westminster.

From 1881 the 10th appeared in the Army List as one of the volunteer battalions allotted to the King's Royal Rifle Corps, but in 1883 the Corps transferred to the Royal Fusiliers. Headquarters of the Battalion were at 33 Fitzroy Square and, from 1912, Handel Street, WC1.

From its home war station guarding the railway line between London and Newhaven the 1st Battalion went to Malta in September 1914. Here they relieved the garrison until they themselves were relieved by the 2/1st in the following February.

From Malta 1/1st Battalion first returned to England but within weeks was in France. It went on to serve with the 8th and 24th Divisions and finally with the 56th Division. The

2/1st Battalion was moved from Malta to Egypt in August 1915 and later, with 29th Division, fought at Gallipoli. Back in Egypt action was seen with the 53rd (Welsh) Division until April when the Londoners transferred to France. Here, in May, the Battalion was disbanded and its members absorbed into 1/1st Battalion.

In June 1916, and after the disbandment of the original 2/1st Battalion, the 3/1st was renumbered and in January of the following year went to France, the new 2/1st London forming part of 173 Brigade, 58th Division.

Battle Honours: Aubers, Somme 1916 and 18, Albert 1916 and 18, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Le Transloy, Arras 1917 and 18, Scarpe 1917 and 18, Bullecourt, Ypres 1917, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord, Valenciennes, Sambre, France and Flanders 1915-18, Gallipoli 1915-16 and Egypt 1916.

Uniform and badges: At formation the battalion wore grey uniforms with scarlet facings. In 1878 scarlet tunics and dark blue trousers were adopted and the facings changed to blue. At the same time blue cloth home service helmets (bugle in the centre of the universal star plate) came in.

Royal Fusilier pattern grenade badges were introduced after 1883 and at the same time a rose was placed in the centre of the helmet plate. It was not until 1889 that the Volunteer became dressed as his parent regiment — the fur cap with its tall grenade plate being issued that year. From 1908 all badges were as those for the Royal Fusiliers — a

Captain Henry Williams, Musketry Instructor of the 19th Middlesex RV, from an engraving, Illustrated London News, 2 August 1862. Note shako badge and Captain's rank decoration on cuffs. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)

grenade with crowned Garter and Union Rose on the ball.

2nd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers)

Titles: 1861, 46th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1880, 23rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1883, 2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Royal Fusiliers; 1908, 2nd (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1922, 2nd City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1937, 9th (2nd City of London) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

Sir John V. Shelley, MP for Westminster, is credited with having raised the battalion in 1861 and was to be its commander until his death five years later. From the beginning the 46th was a strong corps and soon comprised eight companies — four recruited in the City and four from Westminster and Pimlico. The 'London and Westminster Rifles' as the corps was unofficially known, first occupied headquarters at 5 Victoria Street but in June 1861 new premises were taken over in Great Smith Street, Westminster.

The battalion was made up from members of the working classes, its officers, according to one source, being 'men of good social position'. In 1864 recruiting was down and as a result two companies were disbanded and the establishment reduced to six. In 1878, however, and thanks largely due to the new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-Colonel R.W. Routledge,



the two companies were restored.

In 1909 it was felt that the Battalion's existing recruiting area, then Westminster, Pimlico and North Lambeth, had been exhausted and subsequently a new company covering the Willesden area was established at the 'Red Lion' hotel in High Street Kilburn.

At the outbreak of war in 1914 the battalion immediately moved to its home war station guarding the railway line between Southampton Docks and Amesbury. It subsequently moved with the 1st London Brigade to Malta and from there joined the 6th Division (17th

Brigade) at Armentieres in January 1915. Upon its re-formation in 1916, 1/2nd Battalion joined the 56th Division (169th Brigade) and then served for the remainder of the war throughout France and Flanders.

After training at Epsom Downs and Tonbridge, 2/2nd Battalion replaced 1/2nd at Malta and went on to serve at Gallipoli (63rd Division) and Egypt (53rd Division). It transferred to France in April 1916 and here was disbanded in the following June.

The 3/2nd Battalion was renumbered as 2/2nd in June 1916 and from January 1917 served on the Western Front with 173 Brigade, 58th Division.

Battle Honours: Somme 1916 and 18, Albert 1916 and 18, Guillemont, Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Le Transloy, Arras 1917 and 18, Scarpe 1917 and 18, Bullecourt, Ypres 1917, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, St Quentin, Villers Bretonneux, Amiens, Bapaume 1918, Hindenburg Line, Epehy, Canal du Nord, Valenciennes, Sambre, France and Flanders 1915-18, Gallipoli 1915-16, Egypt 1915-16.

Officers, 1st Battalion, London Regiment, Malta 1915. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)

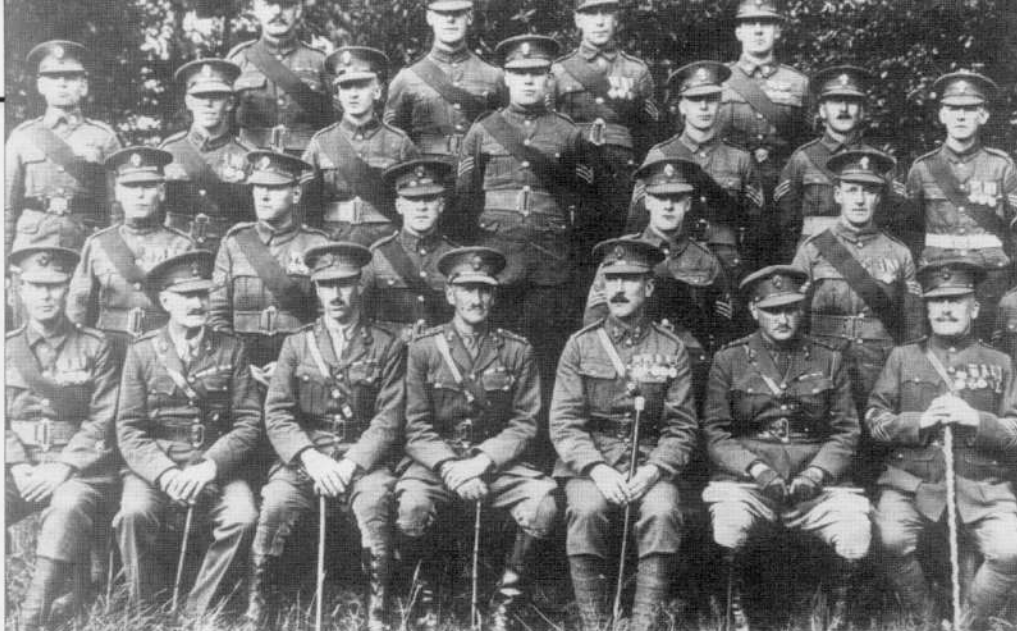


*Sergeants' Mess (with officers),
4th London Regiment, Bourley
Camp 1927. (Ray Westlake
Unit Archives.)*

In 1931 the Battalion moved from its present headquarters at 9 Tufton Street, Westminster, which had been built from funds raised by the Battalion in 1899, into premises at 213 Balham High Street.

Uniform and badges: The Regimental History of the 2nd London Regiment records the early uniform as being drab-grey with green facings. Black belts were worn and the head-dress was a black shako with green tuft. Officers' tunics had silver lace. Badges for the period have been noted as bugle horns, a portcullis and the Royal Cypher 'VR' within a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks.

Scarlet tunics and dark blue trousers were adopted in 1876 and at the same time the facings changed to blue. Belts became white and the shako was now blue with a red and white ball tuft.



Helmets with a rose in the centre of the universal star plate were introduced in 1878 and these, according to the Regimental History, were 'gradually' replaced by fusilier fur caps after 1883. In this year Royal Fusilier badges were taken into use.

3rd (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers)

Titles: 1859, 20th Middlesex

Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1880, 11th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps (Railway); 1890 3rd Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers; 1908, 3rd (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1922, 3rd City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1937, 10th (3rd City of London) Battalion, Royal Fusiliers.

This battalion was raised from employees of the London and North Western Railway Company and soon comprised six companies. Before the end of 1861 a strong but so far unrecognised corps known as the 'Metropolitans' was merged with the railwaymen and the strength of the 20th raised to 14 companies. This, however, was later reduced to ten.

Although always known locally as the 'Railway Rifles', it was not until 1880 that 'Railway' appeared officially in the title of the 11th Middlesex. Before joining the Royal Fusiliers in 1890 the railwaymen served as a volunteer battalion to both the King's Royal Rifle Corps and Middlesex Regiment.

The original headquarters were in the Euston area but in 1881 new premises were found in Albany Street close to the barracks. Ten years later 21 Edward Street, Regent's Park, became HQ but during the Great War the Battalion moved to Paddington and a drill hall at 207 Harrow Road.

Home war station for the 3rd Battalion was guarding the railway line between Basingstoke and Eastleigh. After leaving Malta for France the battalion served with the Indian Meerut Division as well as the 46th and 47th before joining 167th Brigade, 56th Division, in early 1916.

*Drummer, 3rd Battalion,
London Regiment. (Ray
Westlake Unit Archives.)*

The second line battalion served in Malta, Gallipoli and Egypt before disbandment in France in June 1916. At this time 3/3rd was renumbered 2/3rd and later went on to serve in France and Flanders as part of 173rd Brigade, 58th Division.

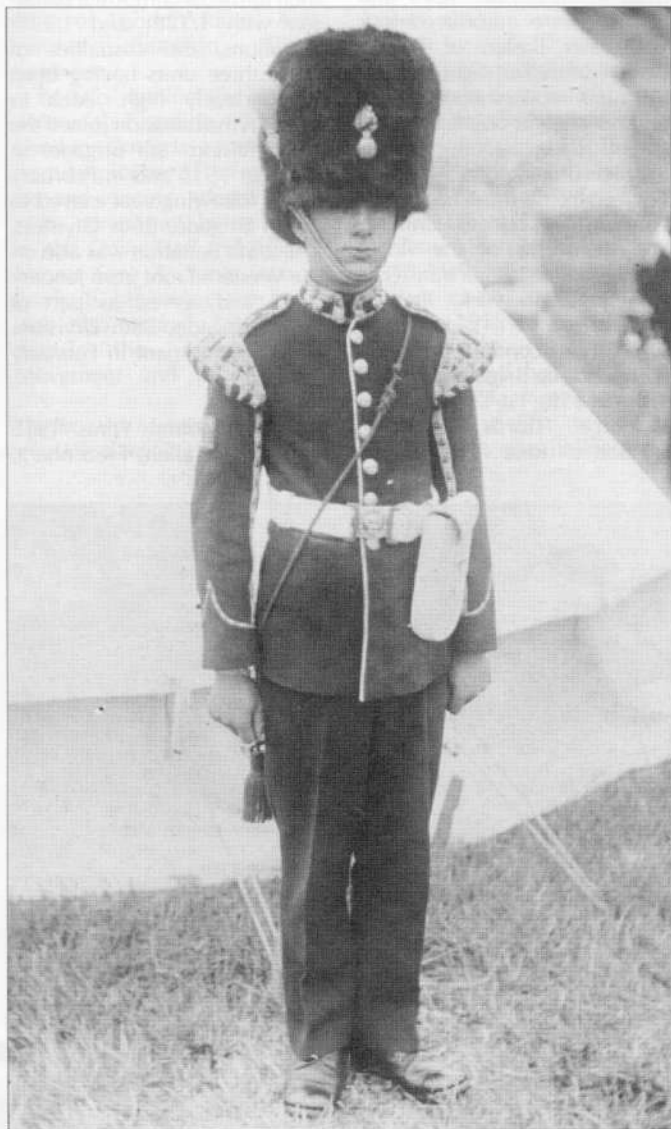
Battle Honours: Neuve Chapelle, Aubers, Festubert 1915, Somme 1916 and 18, Albert 1916 and 18, Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Le



*Gymnastic Instructor, 3rd
(Reserve) Battalion, London
Regiment 1915. Note white
on red cloth shoulder title and
Royal Fusiliers pattern brass
title. (Ray Westlake Unit
Archives.)*

Transloy, Arras 1917, Scarpe 1917, Bullecourt, Ypres 1917, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, St Quentin, Bapaume 1918, Villers Bretenneux, Amiens, Hindenburg Line, Epehy, Pursuit to Mons, France and Flanders 1915-18, Gallipoli 1915, Egypt 1915-16.

Uniform and badges: The original uniform was grey with scarlet facings and buff belts. Shakos were replaced by helmets in 1878 and scarlet tunics with blue facings, dark blue trousers, came in during 1890.





Royal Fusiliers headdress and badges followed. Both the Royal Crest and a conjoint rose, thistle and shamrock device have appeared on the badges of the Battalion. The motto 'Pro aris et Focis' (For our altars and our homes) also features.

4th (City of London) Battalion (Royal Fusiliers)

Titles: 1860, 2nd Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteer Corps; 4th Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1868, 1st Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteer Corps (Tower Hamlets Rifle Volunteer Brigade); 1904, 4th Volunteer Battalion, Royal Fusiliers; 1908, 4th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1922, 4th City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers); 1935, 60th (City of London) Anti-Aircraft Brigade, Royal Artillery.

The merger of the 2nd and 4th Corps in 1868 saw a new 'Brigade' comprising 15 companies. Headquarters was placed at Hoxton and the companies were located in the East end areas of Hackney, Dalston, Bow, Poplar, Limehouse, Clapton and Shoreditch. In 1874 another Tower Hamlets corps, the 6th (or 'North East London Rifles') was merged

6th Battalion, London Regiment. Note the officers' boss cap badges. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)

1st London RV, circa 1893. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)

moved to Egypt where it was attached to the 53rd Division. Disbandment later came in France and at the same time 3/4th (173rd Brigade, 58th Division) was re-numbered.

Battle Honours: Neuve Chapelle, Ypres 1915 and 17, St Julien, Aubers, Festubert 1915, Somme 1916 and 18, Albert 1916 and 18, Guillemont, Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Le Transloy, Arras 1917 and 18, Scarpe 1917 and 18, Bullecourt, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917 and 18, St Quentin, Villers Bretonneux, Amiens, Bapaume 1918, Hindenburg Line, Canal du Nord, Valenciennes, Sambre, France and Flanders 1915-18, Gallipoli 1915-16, Egypt 1916.

Uniform and badges: The Regimental History gives the early uniform as being grey with red and blue braiding. Scarlet with blue facings was authorised in November 1874 and helmets were introduced four years later. Badges of the 6th Corps featured an eight-pointed star superimposed upon another, also of eight points, and the overall badge of the Tower Hamlets Brigade was the White Tower from the Tower of London. The badges, uniform and headdress of the Royal Fusiliers came in after transfer to the regiment in 1904.

5th (City of London) Battalion (London Rifle Brigade)

Titles: 1859, 1st London Rifle Volunteer Corps (City of London Rifle Volunteer

Brigade); 1908, 5th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade); 1922, 5th City of London Regiment (London Rifle Brigade); 1937, London Rifle Brigade, The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consorts Own).

By 1861 the strength of the London Rifle Brigade stood at 16 companies and in 1868 these were affiliated to the various Wards of the City of London. In 1870 the 12th Tower Hamlets Corps at Stoke Newington was absorbed, but four years later a general lack of recruits saw a reduction in establishment to 12 companies. The Brigade was allotted to the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1881 and from 1916 formed part of the Corps of the Rifle Brigade.

From their headquarters at 130 Bunhill Row, 5th London Regiment moved to its war stations, and by the end of November was serving with the 4th Division (11th Brigade) in Belgium. After the heavy fighting at Ypres, where Lance-Sergeant D.W. Belcher won the Victoria Cross, 1/5th Battalion then formed a composite battalion with 1/12th and 1/13th Battalions, the casualties of these three units having been tremendously high. Back to strength the battalion joined the 3rd Division (8th Brigade) in October 1915 and in February of the following year moved to 169th Brigade, 56th Division. The 2/5th Battalion was also on the Western Front from January 1917 and served as part of 174th Brigade, 58th Division, until disbandment in February 1918.

Battle Honours: Ypres 1915 and 17, St Julien, Frezenberg,



Somme 1916 and 18, Albert 1916, Guillemont, Ginchy, Flers-Courcelette, Morval, Le Transloy, Arras 1917 and 18, Scarpe 1917 and 18, Bullecourt, Langemarck 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, Hindenburg Line, Canal de Nord, Valenciennes, Sambre, France and Flanders 1914-18.

Uniform and badges: The badge of the London Rifle Brigade incorporated the Royal Arms and from the City of London its arms, Sword and Mace. The Regimental motto 'Primus In Urbe' (First in the City) also features. The very dark green (almost black) uniform was worn with a distinctive shako bearing a cock's feathers plume.

6th (City of London) Battalion (Rifles)

Titles: 1860, 2nd London Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1908, 6th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Rifles); 1922, 6th City of London Regiment (Rifles); 1923, 6th City of London Regiment (City of London Rifles); 1935, 31st (City of London Rifles) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers.

Known unofficially as the 'Printer's' Battalion, the 2nd London Corps was recruited from employees of the newspaper and printing industry, complete companies being found by the *Daily Mail* and printers Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode. From its beginning the corps was also strongly associated with the Temperance Movement and in 1872 an

5th Battalion, London Regiment. Note cloth shoulder title, green L.R.B. on black and introduced in July 1915. (Mike Ingrey.)

amalgamation took place with another 'total abstainers' volunteer corps — the 48th Middlesex. Also appearing in the Army List as 'Havlock's Own', this corps had been raised in 1872 by cartoonist and well known member of the Temperance League, George Cruikshank.

In 1881 the corps became a volunteer battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and by 1909 also had companies provided by Gamages Store and the South Metropolitan Gas Company. Headquarters of the Battalion were at 57a Farringdon Road, EC1.

The battalion moved to France with 140th Brigade, 47th Division, in March 1915 and in January 1918 was merged with 2/6th Battalion then with the 58th Division (174th Brigade) in France. Upon amalgamation the 1/ and 2/ prefixes were dropped and the battalion was once again known as 6th.

Battle Honours: Festubert 1915, Loos, Somme 1916 and 18, Flers-Courcelette, Le Transloy, Messines 1917, Ypres 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, St Quentin, Avre, Amiens, Albert 1918, Bapaume 1918, Hindenburg Line, Epehy, Pursuit to Mons, France and Flanders 1915-18.

Uniforms and badges: Green with scarlet facings. The head-dress was at first the shako, changing to the helmet and,



Cyclist, 24th Middlesex RV. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)

from 1908, the rifle busby. A Maltese cross badge with bugle in the centre was worn by the volunteers and in 1908 this became the cap badge of the 6th Battalion. Three arms of the cross were left blank but the fourth (top) was inscribed 'SOUTH AFRICA 1900-02'. The badge also featured the motto of the City of London 'Domine Dirige Nos' (Lord direct us) on a tablet surmounted by a crown.

7th (City of London) Battalion

Titles: 1861, 3rd London Rifle

Volunteer Corps; 1908, 7th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment; 1921, 7th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles); 1922, 7th City of London Regiment (Post Office Rifles); 1935, 32nd (7th City of London) Anti-Aircraft Battalion, Royal Engineers.

The 12 companies of the 3rd London Rifle Volunteers were unofficially known as 'The Working Man's Brigade', their motto being 'Labor Omnia Vincit' (Labour conquers all things). In 1881 the corps

became a volunteer battalion of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and it was to this regiment that affiliation was again established in 1916. Before the end of the year, however, this had been changed to the Middlesex Regiment.

The battalion had its headquarters at 32 Sun Street, EC2, and left for France with 140th Brigade, 47th Division, in March 1915. The 2/7th Battalion also served on the Western Front (174th Brigade, 58th Division) and in February 1918 absorbed 1/7th, the prefixes being discarded at this time and the battalion becoming 7th.

Battle Honours: Festubert 1915, Loos, Somme 1916 and 18, Flers-Courcelette, Le Transloy, Messines 1917, Ypres 1917, Menin Road, Polygon Wood, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, Avre, Villers Bretonneux, Amiens, Albert 1918, Bapaume 1918, Hindenburg Line, Epehy, Pursuit to Mons, France and Flanders 1915, 18.

With effect from 31st December 1921 the 7th were merged with the 8th (Post Office Rifles) Battalion.

Uniform and badges: The battalion had worn scarlet with buff facings from the beginning, the headdress for the first few years being recorded in the Regimental History as a bearskin. A grenade badge with the number '3' (later '7') on the ball was also a long standing feature. The battalion's connection with the City of London is shown on the helmet plates introduced after 1878, these bearing the Sword, Mace, Arms and Motto of the City.



8th (City of London) Battalion, (Post Office Rifles)

Titles: 1868, 49th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1880, 24th Middlesex Rifle Volunteer Corps; 1908, 8th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles).

The 49th Middlesex RVC was first raised in 1868 and recruited from postal workers in London. The Post Office, however, had raised a company earlier but this contained senior staff and was soon absorbed into the Civil Service Rifles (see 15th Bn). Re-numbered as 24th, it then became a volunteer battalion of the Rifle Brigade in 1881.

Both the Army Postal Corps and Field Telegraph Corps were formed from within the ranks of the 24th Middlesex and these formations saw service in Egypt and the Sudan. The battle honour Egypt 1882, which is unique within the Auxiliary

Forces, was given to the battalion.

The original battalion went to France with 140th Brigade, 47th Division, in March 1915, and in February 1918 was merged with the 2/8th (174th Brigade, 58th Division), also in France, to form the 8th. Sergeant A.J. Knight of the 2/8th Battalion won the Victoria Cross at Ypres on 20 September 1917.

Battle Honours: Festubert 1915, Loos, Somme 1916 and 18, Flers-Courcelette, Le Transloy, Bullecourt, Messines 1917, Ypres 1917, Menin Road, Passchendaele, Cambrai 1917, St Quentin, Amiens, Albert 1918, Bapaume 1918, Hindenburg Line, Epehy, Pursuit to Mons, France and Flanders 1915-18.

Uniform and badges: Dark grey with scarlet facings and black

Ambulance Section, 3rd London RV. Note various orders of dress — scarlet walking out dress, service dress tunics with blue serge trousers, service dress tunics with canvas working trousers. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)

belts was at first worn. The facings became blue in 1871 and uniforms later became dark green. A shako with red ball-tuft was the first headdress, but these gave way to helmets and from 1892, rifle busbys. The device of the Duke of Teck (Hon Colonel 1876-1900) featured on a fine pouch-belt plate and a bugle formed the centre of the Maltese cross helmet plate. The cap badge from 1908 was based on that of the Rifle Brigade. **MI**

8th Battalion, London Regiment circa 1916. (Ray Westlake Unit Archives.)



'THERE'S NONE BETTER'

NICK VAN DER BIJL

MUCH MALIGNED in the English press at the time, the men of the Argentine 25th Infantry Regiment proved in the Falklands that conscripts could fight well when properly led, one of their number earning himself the equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

IN 1989, a very patriotic Catholic Argentinian of Syrian extraction, Teniente Coronel (Tte Col) Mohammed Seineldhin, nicknamed 'El Turco', led an unsuccessful military coup against the civilian government. It is not generally well known that this officer commanded the Regimiento de Infanteria 25 (RI 25), which was in the forefront of the occupation of the Falkland Islands in 1982.

RI 25 was, in 1982, an element of Brigada de Infanteria XI (Br I XI) and based in Sarmiento in the central southern province of Chubut. At the time the regiment consisted of two rifle companies, a Headquarters and service and support elements.

Tte Col Seineldhin was an experienced and respected officer who had commanded HALCON 8, the regular cadre for Army commando units. On taking over RI25, he set about applying Special Forces tech-

niques to his infantrymen and initiated a programme to attract like-minded officers. He then unofficially named his regiment Regimiento de Infanteria Especial 25, which he was later to describe to a British captor, 'There's none better!'

Tte Col Seineldhin was overjoyed to be informed that that his regiment had been selected for the liberation of Las Malvinas and decided to form a third rifle company from assets available in the regiment. He also created a shoulder flash, depicting a soldier holding the national flag astride a map of Argentina and the Falklands.

Early in 1982, the Argentinian junta decided that the planned winter invasion should be brought forward to late summer, the date of D-Day to be 1 April. A platoon from C/RI 25, commanded by Primero Teniente (Pr Tte) Daniel Estaban, boarded the LST *Cabo San Antonio*, along with the invasion troops, including Battalion de Infanteria Marina 2 (2 BIM).

INVASION

Early on 1 April the invasion began. While the Compania de Commando Anfibios (Ca Cdo



Anf) was landed at Mullet Creek to attack Government House and Moody Brook Barracks, the Buzo Tactico combat divers cleared the Yorke Bay beaches. The C/RI 25 platoon, in two Compania de Anfibios Vehiculos/Infanteria Marina LARC-5s, landed in the second wave, cleared Stanley Airport and occupied the Yorke Bay lighthouse. Two hours later Grupo 1 de Aerea Transporte (GITA) C-130 Hercules disembarked the remainder of RI 25 which quickly took up pre-planned positions around the airport, to be known as Sector Cobre (copper). A small parade was held to celebrate the recovery of the lost territories. 2 BIM, meanwhile, had captured Stanley.

En route to the Malvinas, an Indian recruit poses in his ship's engine room. The green of his trousers is noticeably darker than that of his shirt.

RI 25 found that the logistic chain was embryonic and some troops benefited from clothing captured at Moody Brook, one conscript even awarding himself the British Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

On 3 April Tte Col Seinehilden received orders to despatch a company to garrison Goose Green and Darwin and selected C/RI 25. The following day the company was flown in Grupo 7 de COIN helicopters to Goose Green. Contrary to the official policy of appeasement, Pr Tte Esatban imposed a strict routine on the settlement, reasoning that since the Darwin Peninsula was owned by the Falkland Island Company which was owned by the British firm Coalite, he was not harassing liberated Argentinian citizens, but was taking over the property of a hostile power.

On 11 April, Fuerza Aerea Argentina (FAA) established an airbase, named Base Aerea Militar Condor (BAM Condor) at Goose Green. C/RI 25 passed to under command of the Air Force, but in late April reverted to the Army when RI 12 'General Arenales', commanded by Teniente Coronel Italo Piaggi, arrived. Assuming command of the tactical defence of the garrison and air base, he created a network of linear defensive zones based on natural features across the

Relaxed members of the crew and Embarked Force on the deck of an unidentified ship. The men wearing camouflage uniforms are probably Marine Infantry. Note also the soft green combat caps.





A Sergeant, his rank insignia on his chest, displays a captured Red Ensign. He has a folding stock FAL.

peninsula. The principal defensive network was based along a gorse bush that stretched from Boca House, held by a RI 8 platoon, along the neck of the peninsula held by a composite RI 12 platoon to Darwin Hill, weakly held by A/RI 12. Inevitably, the 1,100-strong garrison, now called Task Force Mercedes, was subjected to several air raids.

EQUIPO COMBATE GUEMES

On 13 May a combined RI 12 and C/RI 25 platoon sized grouping was ordered, to be known as Equipo Combate Guemes (EC Guemes), nicknamed 'Aguila', to establish itself at the hitherto unoccupied Port San Carlos, to block and control the entrance to San Carlos Water. The unit was commanded by Pr Tte Estaban.

In a combined operation with Compania de Commando 601 (Ca Cdo 601), an observation post (OP) was established on Fanning Head at Hill 234. British Advanced Forces patrols operating in the area spotted the OP and relayed its existence to Amphibious Assault Force headquarters on board HMS *Fearless*.

Early on 21 May, the OP was bracketed by shells and abandoned. Most of the retiring Argentinians extricated themselves from an SBS ambush,

although suffering several casualties. Some of the OP team surrendered. The sound of the fighting alerted the remainder of EC Guemes in Port San Carlos and observers were deployed to overlook San Carlos Sound, filling up with ships of the British landing force. In the face of enemy troops advancing towards Port San Carlos, EC Guemes withdrew, shooting down two 3 Cdo Bde RM Air Sqn Gazelle helicopters and damaging a third. It was then decided to break contact and return to Stanley.

Of the OP group, some reached Stanley, while others died in the attempt. A number were captured, including one SNCO, soon after leaving Fanning Head; others were captured days later, in a very poor state of health, suffering badly from the privations of evasion in a hostile environment.

THE BATTLE OF GOOSE GREEN

The garrison at Goose Green was fully aware that it would soon be attacked and already there had been air raids. The forward RI 12 elements already had been in contact with a British Advanced Forces diversionary patrol on 21 May.

The Second Battalion Parachute Regiment (2 Para) were initially ordered to raid Goose Green and then, in a change of instruction, to capture it. Handing over their positions on the Sussex Mountains

to 40 Commando, they reached Camilla Creek House on 27 May. There were a number of brief skirmishes that day. Early on 28 May, the battle of Goose Green began with direct contact between A/RI 12 and 2 Para south of Burnside House. The fighting was confused but the Argentinian company was systematically destroyed.

To stabilise the line, Pr Tte Estenez, commanding C/RI 25 in the absence of Estaban, was ordered to take a C/RI 25 platoon north to assist A/RI 12, but finding the company virtually destroyed, Estenez established himself on Darwin Hill. Very soon the position was attacked by 2 Para and for the next six hours the C/RI 25 platoon, reinforced by survivors from A/RI 12, defended this feature.

With the death of Lieutenant Colonel 'H' Jones in front of Darwin Hill, 2 Para's main thrust was re-organised to take place down the Argentinian left flank. The RI 8 platoon in Boca House was forced out, allowing the British to filter behind the main defensive line which began to crumble as the composite RI 12 platoon gave ground. The defenders of Darwin Hill were dogged in its defence but were skillfully forced off. Only four conscripts rejoined C/RI 25; most were captured wounded. Nevertheless, the platoon had done well and had disproven the theory that the Argentinians were not prepared to fight.

Meanwhile, in Stanley Brigada de Infanteria III (B I III), with responsibility for the Darwin Peninsula, had managed to assemble about 90 reinforcements, drawn from those RI 12 still in Stanley and

survivors from EC Guemes. These were placed under command of Pr Tte Estaban, and helicoptered to a mile south of Goose Green.

The loss of Darwin Hill had shattered the main defence of the peninsula. Nevertheless, Tte Col Piaggi remained confident and immediately despatched the reinforcements, now commanded by Segundo Teniente Centurion, north to counter-attack. Meanwhile Pr Tte Estaban took command of the two companies from Escuela de Aviacion (EAM) NCOs in defensive positions along the west edge of the peninsula.

The reinforcements soon reached the schoolhouse and made contact with the advancing 2 Para. Fierce fighting developed. However, it soon died down when three British were seen approaching the Argentinian positions with their weapons held above their heads. They were also holding a white flag. Believing them to be surrendering, Sec Tte Centurion ordered ceasefire but was then astonished to be asked by the officer to surrender. He turned down the invitation and advised them to return to their lines. As they were walking back, still carrying the white flag, a British GPMG gunner about 1,000 metres away and unaware of what was happening, but seeing Argentinian troops in the open, fired, at the extreme range of his machine-gun, wounding several conscripts. The Argentinians, furious at what they perceived

Cheerful conscript in a miniscule foxhole. Note red muzzle cover on his 7.62mm FAL.



A conscript poses in his bunker. He wears a US M1 helmet with a 'woodland' pattern camouflage cover secured by a thick black elasticated band. The Argentinian national insignia is visible on the upper left sleeve of his hooded combat jacket. The soldier in the background has nylon webbing, sheathed bayonet and very low-slung 45 pistol holder.



March-past of the regiment, probably at Goose Green. In the foreground is a 7.62mm MAG machine-gunner. The men wear thick winter combat jackets over grey-green fatigue trousers elasticated over high black leather boots. The webbing is US Army nylon 'Alice' harness complemented by leather ammunition pouches.



A group of conscripts pose with a penguin. All wear US M1 helmets, Argentinian combat jackets, green fatigue trousers and high leather boots. Their weapons are 7.62mm 50-00 FAL semi-automatic rifles manufactured under licence in Argentina.



Obviously a warm day for a change, because this machine-gun crew are in temperate clothing consisting of a green cotton jacket fitted with a full-length zip and two deep breast and two lower rib pockets. The weapon is a 7.62mm MAG on bipod.

to have been a trick, shot down and killed the three British. The paras were equally incensed, and believing the Argentinians to have dishonoured the white flag of truce, attacked and a violent battle developed around the schoolhouse, which was soon burning.

To the west Pr Tte Estaban and the two EAM companies were rolled and withdrew. Task Force Mercedes was now in full retreat, although elements continued to fight doggedly. Sec Tte Centurion had abandoned the wrecked schoolhouse and had retired to high ground, just north of the settlement, from where he had an excellent field of fire. The two Seccion B Grupo de Aerea Defensa Artilleria 601(B/601 GADA), with their two GDF -002 35mm Oerlikons, firing in the ground role, also harried the advancing British. But by the onset of dusk, after 16 hours of fighting, the Argentinians were hemmed in and around Goose Green. Unexpected reinforcements from B/RI 12 (EC Solari) were too late. Negotiations for a surrender were agreed and the following morning the garrison capitulated.

The nominal roll of C/RI 25 was short. The only Argentinian officer to be killed during the battle was Pr Tte Estenez. Four NCOs and eight conscripts also lost their lives. Sec Tte Centurion would later be awarded the Cruz La Nacion Argentina al Horacio Valor en Combate, his country's highest award, for his part in the fighting and also for rescuing a wounded NCO under fire.

STANLEY

In Stanley, Tte Col Seinehilden was furious at being confined to his sector, Sector Victoria (Victory), while other less patriotic units were engaged with the British, although there was some comfort that RI 25 had been represented at the invasion, at Port San Carlos and at Goose Green and his troops had performed credibly. Publicly contemptuous of the British, Seinehilden criticised the conduct of the campaign, accusing Menendez of inexcusable inactivity and cowardice in failing to attack the San Carlos beachhead and for failing to relieve the embattled RI 12 at Goose Green.

Eventually the continual lobbying of General Menendez was rewarded on 3 June, when RI 25 was ordered to reinforce the two RI 7 companies on Wireless Ridge. There was now the promise of action as both British brigades had broken out of the San Carlos beachhead and were advancing on Stanley and patrols had already been encountered probing the defences of the outer defence zone based on the Mount Harriet-Two Sisters-Mount Longdon features. The constant bombardment of BAM Malvinas was having a demoralising effect on his regiment and therefore it was with some satisfaction that he set about planning his move. But again Tte Col Seinehilden was to be frustrated when Argentinian intelligence assessed that landings east of Stanley were likely, if not a full-scale amphibious assault then certainly by Special Forces. The FAA secu-

rity companies were neither equipped nor experienced to deal with such attacks and therefore RI 25 was ordered to remain where it was. Tte Col Seinehilden was incensed.

On the night of 12 June he and his regiment listened bitterly to the fighting that would breach the outer defence zone and smash RI 4. During the night of 13/14 June, they stood by hoping the Battalion de

Infanteria Marina 3 platoon and Grupo de Aerea Defensa Artilleria 101 section could deal with an Advanced Forces attack on the Cortley Hill fuel dumps. This was beaten off without much difficulty; neither was the regiment called forward to reinforce RI 7 under major attack on Wireless Ridge.

It was thus a bitter Tte Col Seinehilden who led his regiment into captivity on 14 June, but determined to maintain the pride of his regiment, he led it in company columns into Stanley, for the first and last time, to be repatriated on the SS *Canberra*. He and some of his senior officers were, however, retained as prisoners of war until early July. **M**

The pockets of the temperate jacket can be seen better in this view of a soldier posing in front of a Mercedes 'jeep' which has had wire mesh added in front of its windscreen. His weapon is a 50-62 FAL with skeletal folding stock.



The 15th or King's Light Dragoons (Hussars) (3)

AT THE END of January and the beginning of February 1809 the 15th returned to England, winter storms again hampering their docking into port as had been the case when they had arrived at Corunna only a few short months before. The various transports eventually docked at the ports of Plymouth, Portsmouth and Falmouth, where the sick and wounded were put into Halsar hospital. Colonel Grant reported to H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland, and shortly afterwards the regiment received orders for a march back to Romford, whence they had originally come. The regiment took the roads on foot, reduced in numbers, ragged, demoralised and wracked by sickness. A far cry from the proud and distinguished cavalry regiment which had marched off to war only a few short months before.

The correct bridoon and curb bit used during the Napoleonic period.

NEIL LEONARD

CONTINUING FROM *MI/54* we look at the horse equipment and stable dress of the 15th and at the practical requirements of a modern day cavalry re-enactment group.

After refitting and remounting at Romford in 1809, the regiment was at Guildford and Hounslow in 1810, where it was involved in the quelling of the riots that started that year. More riots followed and the 15th were ordered to put them down in the north of England in 1811, until December 1812 when the 15th left Manchester for embarkation at Portsmouth — this time bound for Portugal under the command of the Duke of Wellington. They sailed from Portsmouth on 19 January 1813 and arrived in Portugal for the commencement of the Vittoria campaign.

The 15th were involved in the crossing of the Esla, the action at Vittoria, Elcano, Salinas De Pampona Espeza,

the crossing of the Pyrenees, the march through France and the actions at Orthes and Toulouse. They finally embarked for England at Boulogne after the first abdication of Napoleon, arriving at Dover on 18 July 1814. There then followed a short period of duty in Ireland until the return of Napoleon forced the regiment to mobilise again and sail from Cork to Ostend in May 1815.

At Waterloo the 15th were to make a series of charges in the area of Hougomont, charging repeatedly against French lancers and infantry squares. With the end of the Napoleonic wars the 15th were not to see action again for many years, until the outbreak

of the Second Afghan War in 1869 when the regiment set sail for India.

The Light Dragoon Horse

Prior to the introduction of the Light Dragoon (later Hussar), the cavalry had been seen as either Horse or Dragoons: both heavy cavalrymen. The Horse was expected to charge into action, presenting a solid wall of horseflesh. Big men mounted on big horses, they were the battle tanks of their day and dominated the battlefield. The Dragoons were meant to be a form of mounted infantry who, in theory, were to ride up to the enemy and dismount using their musketoons, but in practice this very rarely happened and by the time of the Napoleonic Wars the Dragoon was just another form of heavy cavalryman.

In the British Army prior to the emergence of the Light Dragoon, the cavalry had been mounted on blacks, apart from the Scots Greys. The height for this particular type and colour of horse had been established as early as 1729 as 15 hands and 1 inch for the Horse and not above 15 hands for the Dragoons. (A hand was and is a

Stable dress of the 15th showing both the summer and the winter version.





*Close-up view of the rear of
the mounted Private.*



*Close-up frontal view of
the Private.*

form of measurement spanning the width of a man's hand and is calculated at four inches. The horse was measured from the front hoof to the withers, a point where the front arch of the saddle fits. 15 hands, as a rule of thumb, is five feet in height.) To this day the black is still used by the British Army's Household Cavalry regiments, usually imported from Ireland and a direct descendant of the early blacks of the Horse and Dragoon regiments.

However, with the emergence of the 15th or Elliot's Light Dragoons in 1759, which was quickly followed by other light cavalry regiments, there was a move away from the black which was becoming increasingly difficult to find. The more plentiful types and colours of horses bred all over the country were now made use of by the light dragoon regiments. These horses were smaller, lighter, and more nimble, made for the work of outposts and piqueting, the traditional role of the light cavalry. Thus with the introduction of the light dragoon the era of the black charger came to an abrupt end, as the 15th fielded a troop of chestnuts, a troop of blacks, a troop of browns and two troops of bays. All of these mounts were described as small, being on average only 14.3 hands high.

A final distinction of the British Army horse was the docked tail. The practice of docking consisted of cutting off the tail at the third joint of the tail bone, said originally to stop the long tail of the horse from covering the soldiers' uniform in mud and dirt in wet weather conditions. This left what was called a bob tail and examples of this can be seen in many period paintings.

During the Napoleonic wars, however, the expression 'cock tailed' was used to describe the light cavalry troop horses, and to distinguish them from those of the French, the muscles underneath the tail or dock were cut through. This was known as 'nicking' and had the effect of making the horse carry his tail even higher. It could be distinguished at quite some distance, and since the British light cavalry had adopted the shako, as had the French, the cocked tail became a feature of a British light cavalryman. This practice eventually died out in the 1840s.

Saddles

The light cavalry saddle of the Napoleonic Wars was introduced into the British Army by the Duke of York, whose great

interest was to bring about many changes of reforms when, in later years, he was to become Commander-in-Chief. After a visit to Prussia in 1791 he had sent to England two sets of saddlery and uniforms from the Prussian Life Guard regiment and the Von Ziethen Hussar regiment; these were largely copied and resulted in the heavy cavalry pattern saddle being introduced in 1796, with a light cavalry pattern being introduced in 1805.

The universal light cavalry pattern was an exact copy of the Prussian model which had been introduced in 1721, when the Prussians first adopted hussar regiments. The simple eastern-style saddle can itself be traced back to the Mongol hordes who invaded Hungary in the 14th century. This type of saddle was in use with the British Army until 1857 and the introduction of the universal pattern saddle for both types of cavalry.

Bits

During the Napoleonic Wars the light cavalry horse would have worn two bits. The first was known as a bridoon bit, or a simple jointed snaffle, the second as a curb bit. However, these bits are extremely severe. Two different bits are placed in the horse's mouth, which do give great control over the horse, but in the wrong hands they can be dangerous to the horse, causing cuts to the lips, and even cut through the tongue, as well as leaving painful pressure sores on the horse's palate. Riding modern horses not used to such severe bits can cause a lot of problems for the mounted re-enactor who is attempting to put on a display with a horse wearing a curb bit and bridoon for the first time.

These bits were eventually replaced in 1902 by the universal reversible port mouthed bit, which is a more humane item to use for re-enactment purposes. It gives greater control, and more comfort to the horse, which is worthwhile even if it does sacrifice a little on authenticity. The 1902 bit was the standard bit used throughout World War I and will be the preferred bit used by the mounted display team for reasons of safety and good horsemanship.

Hungarian saddles are virtually impossible to find. However, there are numerous drawings and plans available; and at a future date when funds are available we will attempt to reproduce them. For the moment, however, the group is



Frontal view of the mounted Private.

mounted on the 1905 pattern universal steel arched saddle, with the 1902 pattern head kit or bridle, again simply because of availability problems.

Uniforms

The stable dress depicted in the article shows the summer stable dress as worn by the private and the winter form of stable dress as worn by the troop sergeant. During the summer months the Russia duck, or white breeches, were worn; during the winter months these were replaced by the more substantial leather inserted overalls. The stable dress recon-

struction is entirely based on the well-known Charles Hamilton Smith print circa 1812 showing a British light cavalryman in this form of dress. Note the Hummel bonnet or watering cap, the pointed cuffs and the collar patch in regimental facing colour (red). Whilst in quarters the cavalryman of the period would have spent most of his time dressed as this, as hours of work went into grooming, feeding, mucking out, cleaning and watering

details. The more elaborate full dress was reserved for parades, inspections and field days.

Officers' dress

Officers' dress at this period, for an hussar officer in particular, was an extremely expensive affair. Headdress at first consisted of the tall muff-like busby. (Made of black fur, not brown as in the case of other ranks, this was decorated with gold cap lines and flounders, with a white over red horsehair plume.) The dolman and pelisse were richly decorated with silver square section braid on the breasts with five rows of silver buttons, four rows being half ball and the central row full ball buttons. The rest of the tunic was richly decorated with Austrian pattern lace and Russia tracing braid, as can be seen in the photographs.

The sash was made of crimson slim cord, bound with gold barrels. It was secured by thick crimson cords and a toggle button at the rear, the cords ending in large bullion wire tassels.

As with the other ranks, the officers wore whitened buckskin breeches for full dress occasions and the leather inserted overalls for field days and campaign. The accoutrements were made of scarlet leather bordered with regimental pattern silver lace. The pouch and sabretache were highly decorated and embroidered with the titles 'Emsdorf' and 'Merebimure'. With introduction of the scarlet shako in 1813, officers wore a version similar to that worn by the other ranks but with silver lace instead of white worsted.

The display team can provide up to 12 riders, all fairly experienced horsemen, and are available throughout the year. Putting on displays of living history with an authentic period encampment, horselines and enclosure, they provide period mounted drill displays and period cavalry training displays. They take part in battle re-enactments, parades and military tattoos. The group would be glad to hear from any potential sponsor or event organiser, and also anyone seriously interested in joining the group as a new recruit, as uniforms and equipment are given out on an issue basis. We do, however, require people who have some knowledge of horses and are able to ride well.

For further information about the mounted display team, write to the group secretary, Caxton House, High Street, Felling, Tyne and Wear NE10 9LT; or telephone (091) 4142476. **MI**

THE LACE WARS

Irishmen in Venetian Service, 1702-97

FRANCESCO PAOLO FAVOROLO

PRIMARY RESEARCH in Venetian archives has revealed the existence of a regiment of dragoons commanded by an Irish family for almost a century which should make a challenging subject for modellers.

THE REPUBLIC of Venice, which even in the period of its greatest landward expansion remained essentially a maritime power, was always obliged to enlist a considerable number of troops to counter the threat posed by the Ottoman Empire to its borders. Since there were not enough Venetian regiments for this purpose, it proved necessary to recruit many foreign troops; in one particular period, these companies constituted almost 50% of the entire army.

At the beginning of the 18th century when the Turkish threat became more persistent, the Republic further enlarged its forces, enlisting numerous Swiss and German regiments, and Italian ones from other regions. Together with these troops, a company of 90 Grenadiers, consisting of Irish, English and Scottish soldiers, arrived in Venice. The captain of this company was Francis Terry — an Irishman.

An inspection of this company took place in Venice in 1702, and as it proved to be completely unequipped, it was supplied with muskets, gunpowder, lead balls, and heavy coats. The company was subsequently dispatched for duty at Zara (in Croatia) where it remained until 1706. At this date it disappears from Venetian rolls and all trace of it is lost. Captain Francis Terry (Lieutenant-Colonel in 1704) remained in Venetian Service, and at the end of 1706 commanded a company of horse-dragoons within the regiment of Colonel Giovanni Massa based at Zara.

This regiment of dragoons was the only one made up exclusively of Italians; other similar regiments contained foreigners of various nationalities, while Croats formed the light cavalry. With this regiment, Francis Terry took part in the first engagements with the Turks, distinguishing himself at the battle of Imoski. When Giovanni Massa died in

1717, Francis Terry became colonel of the regiment which, according to Venetian custom, took his name. He remained in Croatia until 1718 and the peace of Passarowitz.

At the end of the war, the Venetian Republic decided to reorganise its cavalry. Since the regiments of dragoons wiped out by the Turks in Morea were not replaced, the one led by Colonel Terry remained the sole regiment of dragoons until the end of the Republic in 1797. The courage and abilities of Francis Terry earned him the rank of 'Sergente Maggiore di Battaglia' (Brigadier-General) in 1715, and later that of 'Provveditore della Cavalleria Veneziana' (Commissioner of the Venetian Cavalry). Though the regiment subsequently passed to Colonel Gualtieri in 1742 (who remained in command until 1761), various other members of the Terry family, such as William, Andrew, Lawrence and Robert, were active as commanders of other companies in this period.

William, who was the younger brother of Francis, became Captain in 1716. He commanded a company until 1737 and should have succeeded his brother in the command of the regiment. Unfortunately William died in 1756 and his wife, Anna Muyens, sold the company to Captain Tedeschi for 86 *zecchini* (ducats — Venetian gold coins) because her son Robert was too young to assume command. The regiment subsequently passed to Captain Fortunato Semitecolo in 1761, but in 1781 it returned to the Terry family; to be more precise, to the younger son of Francis, Mark Antony, who had become Colonel in the intervening period. His advancement had been rapid: from *Cornetta* (the cavalry company's standard-bearer) in 1749, to Captain in 1752, to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1761.

Mark Antony Terry remained in command until 1794 and did not marry. He won particular recognition for his assistance during a plague epidemic in Bohemia.

After the Turkish War, the Venetian army no longer had the opportunity to manoeuvre regularly, and its already considerably modest prowess declined accordingly. During the second half of the century, the cavalry was assigned rather limited duties. For example, small squads were employed as guarded escorts for the trade caravans coming from Dalmatia.

One odd episode particularly stands out among the regiment's archives. This concerns a debt contracted in 1739 by Francis Terry with a tailor specialising in military outfitting. This debt was recorded in the regiment's register every year, and until 1785, the Terry family was regularly requested to repay. It is not known why Francis Terry and his family refused to settle the debt.

In 1794 the regiment passed once more to the Semitecolo family. It survived until 1797 and the fall of the Republic, when the few remaining companies returning to Venice were disbanded. The Terry family stayed on in Venice where it received many acknowledgments. The prefix 'De' had been added to the family name in 1746, signifying either that the family was considered noble, or that it considered itself to be so. Owing to the Venetians' difficulty in correctly spelling the name, the following versions can be found in the documents: Thery, Terry, Terri, Tery, de Thery.

ORGANISATION

The Company of Grenadiers

The Company of Grenadiers was enlisted on 23 December 1701, arriving in Venetian territory in 1702. It then assembled within the fortress of Legnago at the behest of the 'Savio' (a high-ranking Venetian official), Vettor Zane, and received 90 muskets, 90 Italian-style swords, gunpowder, lead balls, cartridge cases, and 90 heavy coats. After the inspection, it was sent to garrison at Zara under the command of General Alvise Mocenigo.



The company consisted of: Captain Francis Terry (Irish), Lieutenant Raymond Kelly (Irish), Lieutenant Victor Smith (Irish), Sergeant Tadeus O'Brien (Irish), Sergeant Anthony Stewart, one drummer, one piper; in total: 66 Irishmen, 16 Englishmen, 7 Scots and 1 Italian.

The Regiment of Dragoons

The organisation of the Venetian army began at the

very beginning of the 18th century. The cavalry, which hitherto had consisted of independent companies, was subsequently formed into regiments in 1705.

The cavalry regiments were as follows: one regiment of cuirassiers — white dress with white cuffs; two regiments of Croatian light cavalry — red dress with blue cuffs; four regiments of dragoons: one Italian (the Terry Regiment) and three

'Oltremontani' (consisting of foreigners of various nationalities, including other Italians) — white dress with cuffs of various colours.

A regiment of dragoons was made up of a varying number of companies, ranging between five and eight. One single company contained: one captain (or the colonel of the first company), one lieutenant, one *cornetta* (standard-bearer), two sergeants, two or more corpo-

Colonel Francis Terry's Regiment of Dragoons, circa 1720. The officer on the left wears the red tunic with blue cuffs and red breeches as described in the text. The mounted trooper is wearing the 'sovratodos' overcoat and has a slung Albanian sword. The dismounted horseman on the right wears the 'velada' tailcoat.

ral, one farrier, one piper, one or more drummers, about 50 men. The horses generally came from Croatia and wore different saddle blankets.

UNIFORMS

The Grenadiers

The uniform worn by the Grenadiers is not yet known but like those of Irish troops in the service of other Italian states, might have been red with blue cuffs.

Colonel Francis Terry's Regiment of Dragoons

At the beginning of the 18th century the uniform of the dragoons was a red tunic fastened at the front with brass buttons and blue cuffs together with red knee-length breeches. A large leather belt was worn at the waist to which a sword was secured, and the hat was a large black tricorn with a turquoise cockade. Weapons consisted of a musket and a so-called 'Alemannic' or Albanian sword. A bandolier was worn over the left shoulder to which cartridge holders were attached. In this first period, the boots worn were big and heavy, similar to those of various European cavalries. Dressed thus, the regiment of Colonel Terry confronted the Turks.

At the end of the war, when the cavalry was reorganised, a new uniform was adopted. Its colours remained the same, but the design was changed to a tunic open at the front. A waistcoat was also introduced. In 1721 a turquoise tunic was introduced for foot soldiers, and perhaps also for summer wear. It was called a 'velada' (a knee-length tailcoat fitted at the waist, worn over a waistcoat). The Horse-guards received a large red overcoat with blue cuffs called a 'sovratodos'. Breeches remained red, as did saddle blankets and pistol holsters. In about 1735 lighter boots were introduced, which were called 'bottine' after the French example. In 1755, with the complete reorganisation of the army, a Prussian-style uniform design was chosen. **M**

Sources

Research was undertaken exclusively in the Venetian State Archives. The particular documents consulted were those of the 'Savio di Terraferma alla Scrittura' (the government official in charge of the regular army), together with those of the 'inquisitore sopra l'Amministrazione dei Pubblici Ruoli' (the inspector responsible for the administration of public rolls).

THIRD REICH UNIFORMS



GERMAN FIELD CAPS, 1933-45 (2)

GORDON WILLIAMSON

IN THIS SECOND article we examine the field caps worn by the Luftwaffe, including the 'Hermann Göring' Division and other field units. Subsequent issues will look at the Kriegsmarine, Waffen-SS and special insignia.

THE LUFTWAFFE

The Fliegermütze or Fliers Cap

THE LUFTWAFFE's most widely worn field cap was in fact based on that worn by the pre-war Air Sport League (Deutsche Luftsport Verband). Cut from blue-grey wool, it lacked the scalloped front featured in the M34 Field Cap of the Army and instead the flap, widest at the centre point of the side, tapered gradually to the narrowest point at the front.

The cap was lined in grey twill or artificial silk, often bearing manufacturers' stamps, size marks, and year of manufacture stamps as did their Army counterparts.

The insignia on this cap consisted of a grey cotton thread machine-embroidered eagle and swastika in the unique 'flying' configuration used by the

Luftwaffe, on a grey-blue (correctly named field-blue) backing. On the front of the flap was situated a machine-embroidered national cockade.

Samples do occasionally turn up of the Army M34 style Field Cap cut in Luftwaffe coloured cloth, and it is known from photographic evidence that these did see wear with the Luftwaffe, but seem to have been only rarely used. Some examples of the Fliegermütze also exist with coloured waffenfarbe piping to the edge of the flap.

Officers' versions of the Fliegermütze were usually cut from finer quality cloth or twill and featured woven aluminium

Above: Oberfeldwebel Günther Glasner, an Air Gunner with Kampfgeschwader 6, has just been decorated with the Knights Cross of the Iron Cross. This highly decorated soldier already held the German Cross in Gold, Flight Clasp with Pendant, Krim Shield and both Afrika and Kreta cuffbands. He wears the Other Ranks' model of the Fliegermütze. Next to him, saluting, is Oakleaves winner Major Hermann Hogeback, wearing the officers' Fliegermütze with aluminium piping to the flap. (Josef Charita.)

um (gilt for Generals) piping to the flap. On these caps it was not uncommon for hand-embroidered bullion insignia to be worn, but it was equally likely that standard other ranks' cotton-embroidered insignia would be used. Officers' caps often featured partial or full leather sweatbands.

Two examples of the Luftwaffe's unique Tropical Peaked Cap worn by Field Police of the 'Hermann Göring' Division. Unteroffizier Kail on the left is wearing full regulation machine-woven insignia whilst the soldier to the right wears the machine-embroidered eagle and basic cockade from the tropical version of the Fliegermütze. (Herbert Kail.)



The Arbeitsmütze or Working Cap

A lightweight twill version of the Fliegermütze was issued to Luftwaffe ground crew as a working cap, generally in black twill with a black cotton lining. The only insignia worn was a national emblem machine-embroidered on a black backing. This cap is also, however, known to have been worn as a lightweight summer field cap by Panzer units including the Luftwaffe's 'Hermann Göring' Division. The author has also encountered an original unaltered example of this cap with standard Army Panzer Field Cap insignia machine stitched to it, presumably used as a summer weight field cap by an Army Panzer unit.

Below left:

A soldier from the Panzer Regiment of the 'Hermann Göring' Division wears the black version of the Fliegermütze with insignia machine embroidered on a black backing. (Josef Charita.)

Below centre:

Hauptmann Hans Joachim Bellinger, Commander of 9 Coy, Panzer Regiment 'Hermann Göring', wears the Luftwaffe black Panzer M43 Cap. Note that only the eagle is worn, to the exclusion of the cockade, and that twisted cord piping has been added to the scalloped front portion of the flaps. (Josef Charita.)

Below right:

Oberstleutnant Johannes 'Macki' Steinhoff wears the officers' version of the Luftwaffe M43 cap. Note that it has only a single button fastening. Officers' aluminium braid piping to the crown is featured. (Josef Charita.)

The Bergmütze or Mountain Cap

A blue-grey woollen mountain cap was issued to Luftwaffe signals and anti-aircraft units stationed in mountainous regions. It was very similar to that of the Army, but usually featured only a single button fastening. The insignia used was that from the Fliegermütze. Occasionally, the Army Mountain Troops' Edelweiss emblem was worn on the left flap.

Tropen Fliegermütze or Tropical Fliers Cap

A lightweight tropical version of the Fliegermütze was introduced in 1941. Identical in style to the field-blue version, it was cut from golden-tan coloured cotton drill, usually — though not always — with a bright red lining. Insignia was of the same style as for the field-blue version but was machine-embroidered on to a tan twill base. Officers' caps featured aluminium woven braid piping to the flap but usually retained the basic other ranks' cotton embroidered insignia.

The lightweight tropical Fliegermütze is also known to have been manufactured in grey-blue cotton twill. This cap usually lacked any form of ventilation grommet.

Tropenfeldmütze or Tropical Field Cap

The Luftwaffe did not have an official equivalent to the Army's tropical peaked field cap, introducing instead the Tropical Peaked Cap. However, peaked tropical field caps similar to the Army's in style but cut in the Luftwaffe tropical clothing colour of golden-tan were produced in large numbers.

These featured in most cases the standard tropical insignia

from the tropical Fliegermütze, though hand-embroidered bullion officers' insignia on tropical backing are known. Officers' aluminium woven piping was worn to both the crown and scalloped portion to the front of the false flap, or on some caps, to the crown only.

Examples of Luftwaffe tropical peaked Field Caps are also known with fully functioning side flaps, fastened at the front with two small pebbled aluminium buttons.

The Luftwaffe tropical peaked Field Cap was also produced in grey-blue twill, in which case the standard insignia from the grey-blue Fliegermütze was used.

Tropenschirmmütze or Tropical Peaked Cap

This stylish and popular cap was introduced in 1942 and was intended for wear by all ranks. It was manufactured in golden-tan cotton twill with a wide floppy brim. Neither the brim, or the cap band, also in tan twill, featured piping on the basic cap. The large peak, which afforded good protection to the wearer's eyes in tropical sunlight, was also covered in tan cotton twill. Three buttons, one on each side, and one at the back on the cap, could be used to attach a cotton neck flap, though this seems from photographic evidence to have been rarely fitted.

The cap featured a leather chinstrap, examples of which have been noted in natural leather colour, brown, black and field-blue. The lining was in bright red cotton and under each side of the brim were located two large meshed air vent holes.

Issue insignia consisted of a Luftwaffe 'flying' eagle



Oakleaves winner Joachim Helbig wears the officers' version of the Fliegermütze with aluminium piping and hand-embroidered eagle and swastika.

machine-woven in pale grey on tan. The Luftwaffe version of the national cockade surrounded by a winged oakleaf wreath worn on the band, was also machine-woven. It appears, however, that the standard tropical insignia for the Fliegermütze was also often worn in place of the regulation insignia. True officers' versions featuring aluminium piping to the top and bottom of the cap band, wire woven insignia and officers' bullion chincords were also produced, but in the main it appears that most officers settled for wearing a standard other ranks' cap with officers' chincords fitted.

Einheitsfeldmütze M1943 or Standard Field Cap M43

At the same time as the Army introduced its M43 Cap, an identical cap was introduced to the Luftwaffe. Manufactured from blue-grey wool, it was virtually identical to the Army's



pattern but some Luftwaffe examples carried on the traditional Luftwaffe Bergmütze feature of single button fastening to the flap.

Officers' versions featured aluminium woven braid piping to the crown (gilt for Generals) but often retained other ranks' pattern cotton thread machine embroidered insignia.

Initially, two-piece insignia from the Fliegermütze was used, but this was later replaced by a single piece machine-embroidered insignia showing the Luftwaffe national emblem over the national cockade, all on a trapezoidal piece of blue grey wool or felt.

It appears that some senior officers occasionally wore officers chincords on the M43 Cap.

Luftwaffe Panzer units

Black woollen versions of both the Fliegermütze and M43 Cap were worn by Panzer personnel within the 'Hermann Göring' Division. Generally, insignia worn with these caps was on a black backing but the standard insignia on blue grey backing is encountered on both types of cap. In some cases the cockade was omitted from the M43 cap due to lack of space, and only the national emblem was worn.

Armoured personnel from the Sturmgeschützabteilung of the 'Hermann Göring' Division also wore field grey clothing including the M43 Cap in field grey, and examples are known of the one-piece trapezoidal Luftwaffe cap insignia on field-grey backing. The accompanying photo shows a despatch rider from the 'Hermann Göring' Division's Military Police unit. Correspondence between the author and the subject of the photograph confirms that he is in fact wearing a field-grey version of the cap, but apparently on this occasion, with two piece insignia.

Camouflage Field Caps

Camouflaged field caps made from the same splinter pattern camouflaged cotton duck as the 'Zeltbahn' were worn within Luftwaffe Field Units. In a variety of styles with and without side flaps and both with and without insignia, these caps were also made from captured Italian camouflage material.

Old Style Field Caps

There was no 'Old Style' Field Cap as such for Luftwaffe officers. However, some officers in Field Units are known to have removed the chincords from their caps, and fitted soft leather peaks. These at best however, are merely modified Schirmmützen and not true 'Old Style' Caps.

MI

THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

The Czech Legion, 1917-20

IAN GALLAGHER

AS SLAUGHTER on the Western Front reached a new peak, an estimated 21,000 French troops deserted. This was in 1917. In addition 16 corps were affected by near rebellion, and such catchwords as 'We will defend our ground but we will not attack', were heard. Soldiers showed their contempt for the general staff's planning by bleating like sheep as they were marched towards the first line trenches.

It is not surprising that under these circumstances the French government cast a desperate eye about for all possible sources of manpower. In an unusual quirk of history it found thousands of trained men, ready and eager to fight — but they were very many hundreds of miles away from the Western Front.

They were Czechoslovakians, soldiers of a country which did not yet exist. Many Czechs and Slovaks had settled in Russia during the latter part of the 19th and the early years of the 20th century. One of their largest settlements was 35,000 strong in the Volynt region of the Ukraine, other big groupings existing in western Siberia, and in the farming areas around Kiev.

The cultural identity of these communities was strong, and the outbreak of the war had given them hope that the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian empire would lead to the establishment of their homeland as an independent Czechoslovakian state.

Czech bomb throwing crews wearing protective netting against mosquitoes.

THEY WERE heading for the Western Front via Vladivostok after the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk took Russia out of the Great War. They spent months aboard their trains, virtually controlling the Trans-Siberian Railway. In a country in turmoil, they were one of the few remaining disciplined military units. They were the Czech Legion.



Preparing a Minenwerfer for firing from a trench.

Men from these Russian settlements helped to form the basis of the Czech and Slovak fighting force. In addition it received a large input from trained soldiers who had been recruited from PoW camps on the Eastern Front by the Russians; and by many eager deserters from the Austro-Hungarian armies.

Recruitment from among prisoners of war posed legal problems. The Russian government, however, claimed to

have side-stepped the Geneva Convention by enrolling only Russian citizens. Citizenship was granted immediately on request.

The outbreak of the Russian Revolution in March 1917 found this First Czechoslovakian Brigade, known as the Czechoslovakian Legion, deployed in the Ukraine. Its Commander-in-Chief was a





Machine-gunners on a train from the grouping of the 1st Division.

Russian, General Shokhorov. He had been appointed by the Tsarist Government. Political affairs of the Legion were the responsibility of the Czechoslovakian National Council for Russia, which in turn was subordinate to a supreme National Council with headquarters in Paris.

The Czech forces took a firm stance from the outset of the Revolution. They held it to be an internal matter of the Russian people, and as such was no concern of theirs. This was confirmed by an agreement made in July 1917 which recognised the Legion as 'A

Short rest for a recce party.



Revolutionary Army in a state of war with the Central Powers'. In all matters of a military nature it remained under the orders of the Russian High Command; but in any matters involving political or diplomatic considerations it was under the instruction of the Czechoslovakian National Council of Russia.

France took the next step. Some Czechoslovakian troops were already fighting on the Western Front, and on 16 December 1917 she accorded them co-belligerent status. A month later, when this information had been received in Russia, the Czechoslovakian Legion officially became an Allied military formation.

The question of extricating these trained fighting men from the USSR proved a thorny one.

In this immediate post-revolutionary period the country was in a turmoil, and civil war was looming. The Bolshevik government was apprehensive that a cohesive and well-trained force, led by Tsarist officers, was uncommitted in the country; and so originally was anxious to be rid of it as soon as possible. In addition, the treaty of Brest-Litovsk which in March 1918 ended hostilities between the Soviet government and the Central Powers, had specified that prisoners of war should be exchanged — and in the eyes of Austria at least, many of the armed men in the Czech legion were PoWs. Indeed, no less a person than Lenin was reported as being eager to see the arrangements for the Czechs' evacuation completed.

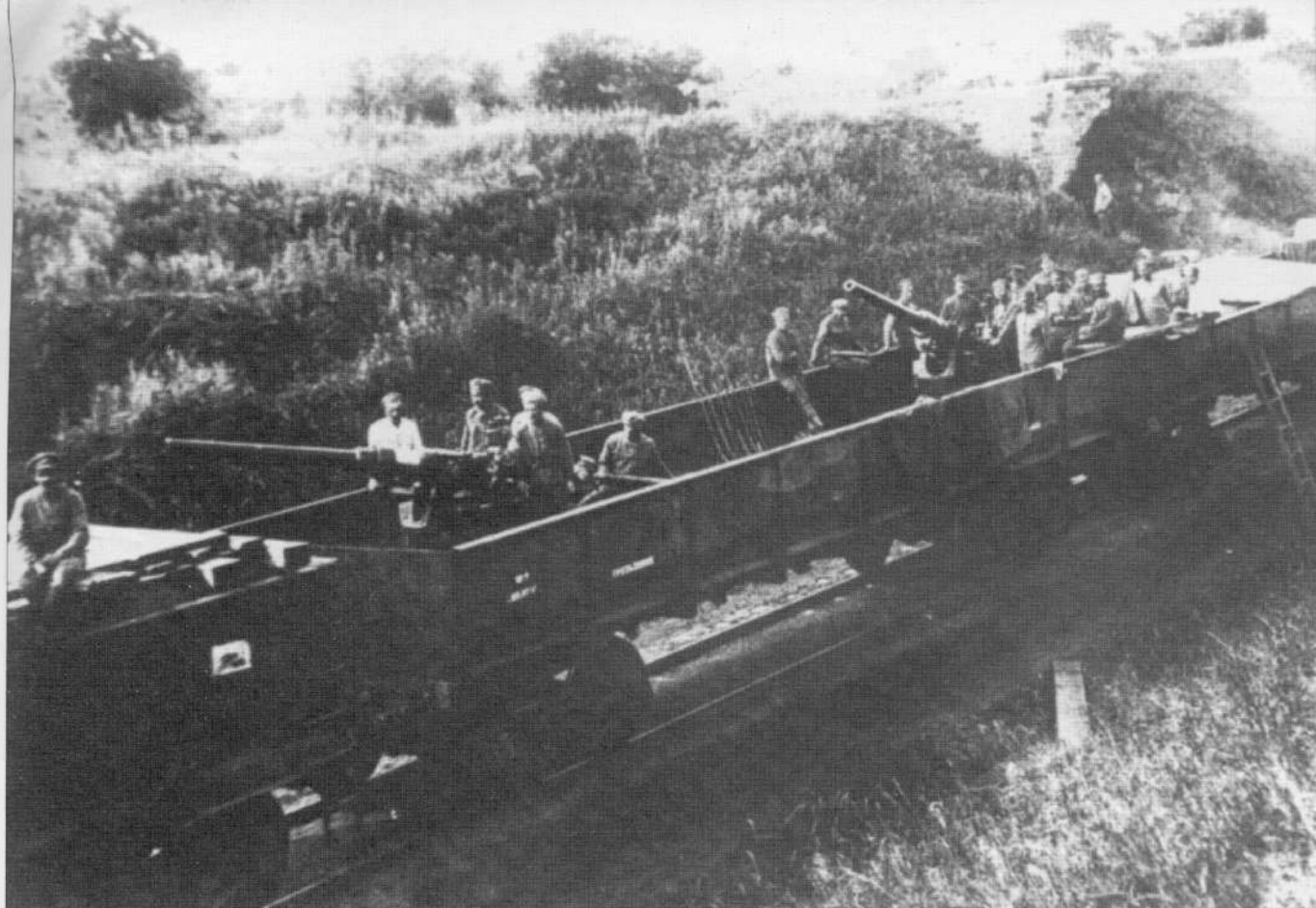
It was easier said than done.

Exits to the west were blocked by the Central Powers. The Germans were advancing towards the Ukraine, and indeed some members of the Czech Legion fighting there had been captured by Austrian troops and then promptly hanged out of hand as traitors. The northern ports of Murmansk and Archangel, which were to be favoured later by the British as exit points, were difficult of access and were ice free for only a portion of the year.

Originally the Soviet government was of the opinion that the further east they were from the Ukraine the better. An exit via the port of Vladivostok, at the terminus of the Trans-Siberian railway, was the route preferred by the Czech High Command and by France. Here American and British ships would be waiting to transport them to the trenches of the Western Front. Vladivostok was over 5,000 miles away, and it suited the purposes of all parties concerned.

So it was that towards the end of February 1918, soldiers of the Legion began to board 72 trains for their long journey to the Pacific seaboard. These trains were composed of 40-45 cars. They carried equipment, light artillery, machine-guns, rifles, ammunition, dismantled aircraft, horses, armoured cars and some provisions.

One of the leaders of the Bolshevik forces in Russia was Antonov-Ovseienko, and he



was concerned at the thought of these well-armed forces crossing into his territory. The Czechs therefore voluntarily offered to give up much of their heavy armament and the aircraft to him — this earned them a cordial message of thanks, and instructions to the local Bolsheviks to do all they could to speed the trains on their journey.

The commanders of the Legion had planned a phased withdrawal for their men, favouring this rather than a long snake of railroad trains stretching over many hundred of miles. They feared that this type of grouping would be too vulnerable to disruption, and preferred a scenario where their concentrations of troops moved from Samara, then Cheliabinsk, Omsk, Irkutsk and so to Vladivostok.

Four days after the trains had started rolling, the first of them arrived at Penza, which was the westernmost terminus of the Trans-Siberian railway proper.

An abrupt change of mind on the part of the Soviet Government was to alter their journey. In Moscow in mid-March, Trotsky, now Commissar of War, held talks with the Allied representatives about the possibilities of military co-operation. Such co-operation was important, because although the treaty of Brest-Litovsk stopped the fighting against the Central Powers, the armed forces of the USSR were in a parlous state. Desertions, poor morale, lack

of planning, shortage of supplies, and an officer corps distrusted by the central government, meant that priority had to be given to the rebuilding of the armed forces.

Trotsky saw in the trained and experienced troops of the Czech Legion the nucleus of such a force, and accordingly he opened negotiations with the French military mission about this possibility; and orders clicked out along the railroad telegraphs for the trains to be halted.

There were added complications. Czechoslovakian Communists, who had refused to join the Legion, seem to have genuinely believed that their compatriots were being dragged unwillingly out of Russia, as pawns in a war of Western imperialists. They suc-

ceeded in convincing the Bolshevik leaders that, if given a chance, they could convince their fellow countrymen of their mistake.

Further telegrams quickly followed, and at the end of March local Soviets were ordered to see to it that the trains were completely disarmed, that no provisions were sold to them by the local authorities, and that telegraphic communication with their political leaders in Moscow was forbidden.

The trains were by now scattered along hundreds of miles of track, but the best efforts of the Czech Communist envoys had resulted in the desertion of only 150 men. This was a substantial shortfall from the number of 15,000 men which they had promised the Bolshevik leaders.

The 5th Regiment's train, commanded by Lieutenant Vedral.

Communications from the capital was mostly via telegraph lines strung along the railroad. Some of the Czech trains had telegraphists aboard who were able to tap into the messages coming from Moscow. More unorthodox measures for communication were also used. Goods trains passing eastwards had messages in Czechoslovakian scrawled on their sides urging that no arms be surrendered, and that the troops be ready for action.

The local Soviets were often in a state of disarray, ill disci-

A Bolshevik armoured train captured by the Legion.





Some of the weapons and ammunition captured from the Bolsheviks.

plined and short of arms. Firm control over them from the centre did not yet exist and so directives were not always obeyed. It was difficult to prevent peasants with provisions for sale from approaching the trains, and the men were not willing to give up their arms. In some cases bribery allowed the trains to inch their way eastwards.

Pressure was put on the Legion by the arrest of its political leaders in Moscow. They were forced to sign instructions to their troops to surrender all weapons to the Soviet authorities, who would in future assume responsibility for the protection of the trains.

Secret orders from Trotsky to local Bolsheviks gave them the task of approaching the trains once the men had been disarmed. They were then to dissolve all military formations, and give the Czechs two choices — either join the Red Army, or be taken into labour battalions.

Instructions to disarm met with point-blank refusal, and the men began to hide some of their weapons and ammunition which were aboard their trains.

In an effort to break the impasse a meeting was held at Penza, and the Czechs finally agreed to reduce the armament aboard each train to one machine-gun and 168 rifles. These were for self-defence only; and in addition their 'counter-revolutionary' officers (Tsarist officers) were to be dismissed. A commissar appointed to each train was to be responsible for keeping the government informed about its progress, and

was to deal with local difficulties which might arise.

It was not an auspicious meeting. The last Soviet speaker had attempted to persuade the restless troops that the Bolsheviks held secret information that they were to be sent to black Africa to be used in conjunction with French troops in putting down risings against the French Colonial authorities! The men were dissatisfied and disgruntled when the terms of the agreement were made known to them. They shouted that they had already given up enough. However they were finally pacified when wording of the Commissar's certificate was read out to them.

'This train was inspected by the Disarmament Commission of the Penza Soviet and, therefore according to the orders of the Soviet of People's Commissars, it must not be searched and its movement stopped. In the name of the Soviet of People's Commissars, and according to its order, you are requested to render all assistance and co-operation to the Czechoslovak Revolutionary Army while in transit to Vladivostock.'

Further trouble arose immediately. A Russian train carrying three armoured cars and a large number of machine-guns drew up alongside one of the Czechoslovakian trains. Faced with this threatening situation orders were given for the Czechs to take it over, without bloodshed if possible. The troops went in with bayonets. A Chinese crew manning the engine ran away — and the train was secured!

Almost immediately the Czech trains were allowed to

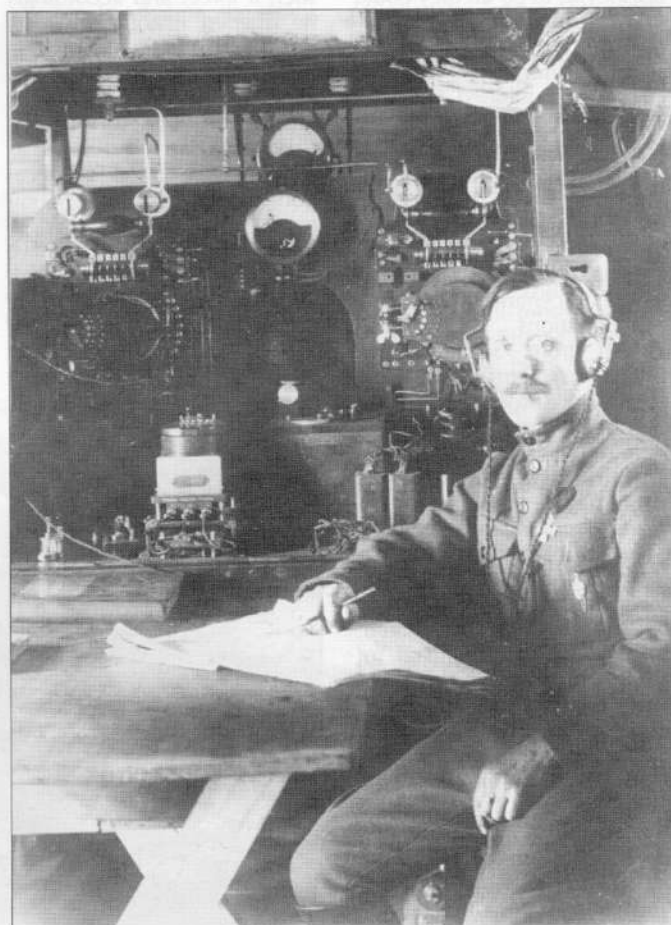
roll again en route to Vladivostock, and it seemed as if the long wait was finally over. Local Soviets, however, stopped them again and again, and in defiance of the certificate demanded the surrender of more and yet more rifles.

Soviets in Samara, Syzran and also in Penza ordered trains travelling through their territories to hand over all arms, with the exception of 20 rifles per train and five rounds of ammunition for each rifle. All

machine-guns were to be confiscated. The men refused to obey. Finally though, persuaded by the National Council that their route would be barred by the removal of locomotives and the dismantling of lengths of track unless they agreed, they gave up their arms and slowly, station by station, some of the trains edged forward again. **MI**

To be concluded

The wireless operator Sedlacek at his post.



THERE CAN BE few people nowadays who have not heard of the defence of Rorke's Drift by some hundred British soldiers against 4,000 Zulus in 1879. Yet how many of those who know that story also know of a similar and equally heroic stand only eight months later, when another handful of men held fast to the end for no other reason but 'the pride of an ancient people in warfare bred, honour of comrades living, and faith to the dead'¹. Furthermore their stand was, in a way, even more remarkable than Rorke's Drift, for many of them were coreligionists and 'kindred folk' of the thousands massed against them. They fought to defend the British Residency at Kabul and, above all, the good name of their Regiment, the Queen's Own Corps of Guides, of the Punjab Frontier Force.

THE REGIMENT

The Corps of Guides, initially of one troop of cavalry and two companies of infantry, was raised by Lieutenant Harry Lumsden, formerly of the 59th Bengal Native Infantry, on 14 December 1846 after the First Sikh War. Its first role was to acquire intelligence for the newly-appointed British Resident in the Punjab, still nominally a Sikh province, and to act as guides for Regular forces; but also to perform as ordinary troops should the need arise. The focus of its activities was chiefly to be the independent Pathan tribes who inhabited the mountainous region between the Punjab and Afghanistan, what later became known as the North-West Frontier. The Corps originally had only two British officers and drew its men largely from the tribes it was formed to watch, together with a proportion of Sikhs and, later, Gurkhas.

'DEVOTED BRAVERY' The Guides at Kabul

MICHAEL BARTHORP
Painting by RICK SCOLLINS

THE HEROIC defence of the Residency in Kabul by men of the Queen's Own Corps of Guides ranks alongside Rorke's Drift in the annals of the British Army, yet is a relatively unknown battle.

After the Second Sikh War of 1848-49, in which the Guides provided valuable service, the Punjab was formally annexed to British India as a separate province under a Lieutenant-Governor. His military arm to police the border was a newly-raised force, eventually of five regiments of cavalry and ten battalions of infantry, known as the Punjab Irregular (later Frontier) Force. To this force was attached the Guides, now trebled in strength to three cavalry troops and six infantry companies, giving a regimental strength of 1,000 with four British officers, none of whom held rank higher than lieutenant. All the other officers were native ranks, *rissaldars* (cavalry), *subadars* (infantry) and *jemadars*.

From 1850 onwards the Guides were constantly engaged in operations on the Frontier, gaining high regard for their 'smart, active, soldier-like appearance' and 'their gallant and effective conduct'². Their only exception to Frontier operations was in 1857 when, with northern India ablaze in the Sepoy Mutiny, they made a celebrated forced march from their base at Mardan, north of Peshawar, to join the British force besieging Delhi³, covering 580 miles in 22 days and going straight into action on arrival. They provided a most

welcome and valuable reinforcement: 'Next to British soldiers, the men who in the hour of doubt and danger stood highest in public confidence were the Guides'⁴.

After the fall of Delhi the Guides returned to the Frontier for another 20 years of tribal skirmishing, including the major Umbeyla expedition of 1863⁵, until the outbreak of the Second Afghan War in 1878.

THE SECOND AFGHAN WAR

The increasing concern felt in British India over Russian advances in Central Asia towards Afghanistan in the 1870s became heightened in 1878 by the friendly reception of a Russian military mission at Kabul by the Afghan Amir, Sher Ali. To counter Russian influence, a British mission — with an escort of Guides — was despatched, but when it reached the Afghan border it was refused entry and threatened with force if it proceeded. An ultimatum was then sent to the Amir, requiring him to apologise and accept the mission, or face hostilities. No reply having been received, British forces invaded Afghanistan in November 1878.

After three months' operations, in which the Guides had been fully engaged, Sher Ali fled and a new Amir, Yakub



Sir Louis Cavagnari, KCB, CSI.
Engraving from a photograph.

Khan, signified his willingness to accept British control of Afghan foreign policy and a British Resident Envoy at Kabul. A treaty to this effect was signed at Gandamak on 26 May 1879.

THE KABUL MISSION

The man selected as Envoy was Major Sir Louis Cavagnari, then aged 38, the son of an Italian father and an Irish mother. Having entered the East India Company's service, he joined the 1st European Bengal Fusiliers as an ensign during the Mutiny. He later transferred to the Political Service in the Punjab and had much experience of the NW Frontier, most recently as Deputy-Commissioner of Peshawar and chief negotiator of the Treaty of Gandamak. He was clever, brave and able, but highly ambitious, impatient and had not shown tact with the Afghans. General (later Lord) Roberts, the commander of one of the invading columns, felt the mission was premature; when he bade Cavagnari goodbye, he recorded that he, Roberts, felt 'thoroughly depressed' and his 'mind was filled with gloomy forebodings', a mood not improved by the sight of a solitary magpie as they parted⁶.

For his staff, Cavagnari had, as secretary and political assistant, William Jenkyns of the Indian Civil Service, and a military attaché, Lieutenant W.R.P. Hamilton of the Guides, who would also command the escort: one jemadar, two NCOs and 22 sowars of the Guides Cavalry; one jemadar, five NCOs, one bugler, one hospital



British officers of the Queen's Own Corps of Guides, 1878.
At right, sitting, is Surgeon A.H. Kelly and, standing, Lieutenant W.R.P. Hamilton.
(National Army Museum.)

assistant and 45 sepoys of the Guides Infantry; 78 all ranks⁷. Appointed as medical officer to the Mission was Surgeon A.H. Kelly, who had been with the Guides for six years.

Walter Hamilton, then approaching his 23rd birthday, hailed from the Anglo-Irish gentry and, after being educated at Felstead, had originally been gazetted ensign in HM 70th Regiment, which he joined in India in late 1874. On promotion to lieutenant, he transferred to the Indian Army and the Guides, later acting as ADC to the force commander in the Jowaki Expedition of 1877. On the outbreak of the Afghan War he served with the Guides Cavalry during the advance on Ali Masjid in the Khyber Pass. At the Battle of Futehabad on 2 April 1879 he took over command of the Guides Cavalry when Major Battye was killed leading a charge, routed the enemy and saved the life of a sowar whom he saw attacked by three tribesmen. For his gallantry he was recommended for the Victoria Cross⁸. Over six feet tall and of striking appearance, he was devoted to his men, the cream of northern India's 'martial races', and they to him. He was indeed the epit-

ome of the best type of Victorian subaltern and, to add to his military talents, he was also something of a poet.

THE RESIDENCY

The Mission arrived at Kabul on 24 July and was greeted with appropriate ceremony by the Afghan authorities and with orderly indifference from the population. The quarters allotted to it lay some 250 yards from the Amir's palace within the walled fortress of the Bala Hissar, at the south-east corner of the city. The accommodation consisted of three main buildings: the Residency, of a two-storyed, flat-roofed house for the Envoy alongside the fortress' south wall, separated by a walled courtyard from a three-storyed Mess House, also flat-roofed, to the north where in Jenkyns, Hamilton and Kelly were accommodated; across a narrow alleyway from the courtyard's west wall was the Escort's barracks, a flat-roofed, single-storey block with a central courtyard, the Sikh sowars and sepoys having the north side, the Mohammedan ranks the south. Across an open space to the west lay the stables and beyond that again the non-combatants' quarters. The

whole was contained on the south by the Bala Hissar's outside wall, with open country beyond, on the north by a low mud wall with houses beyond, on the east by more houses close up against the Residency, and on the west by the Arsenal. Except on the south, the compound was completely overlooked, and was open to whoever cared to walk in.

Unconcerned by the Mission's vulnerable position and unwilling to put any defensive measures in train so as not to offend his Afghan hosts, Cavagnari was well pleased with his reception by the Amir and the calm in the city. He reported optimistically to India. On the fourth day, however, six Afghan regiments from Herat, which had not been engaged in the war, marched noisily through Kabul, abusing Cavagnari by name and the troops loyal to Yakub Khan, before encamping outside the city. This drew little response from the Kabulis, but Cavagnari was warned that it boded ill for the future by a Guides pensioner living in Kabul, the former Rissaldar-Major Nakshband Khan, a man who was to be the chief eyewitness of what was to come. Cavagnari made little of it, saying the worst that could happen would be their deaths which would then be avenged. Nakshband Khan, far from reassured, repeated his warning to Jenkyns, but he took the same line as his chief.

On 6 August Cavagnari telegraphed to India that the Herat regiments were on the verge of mutiny against the Amir over non-payment of their arrears of pay. However a week later he reported this had been settled and the situation had quietened down. He continued to remain confident of the Mission's safety and that Yakub Khan would prove a reliable ally. On 2 September he signalled, 'All well'.

THE UPRISING

Early on the morning of 3 September Hamilton and Kelly rode out into the countryside to find suitable grass for forage, accompanied by an NCO and two sowars escorting the grass-cutters. The two officers returned for breakfast and the daily routine began around 8am. At about the same time an Afghan regiment — the Turkestani Ardal — paraded without rifles elsewhere in the Bala Hissar to receive its pay arrears.

This regiment's sullen mood soon changed to vociferous anger when only one month's

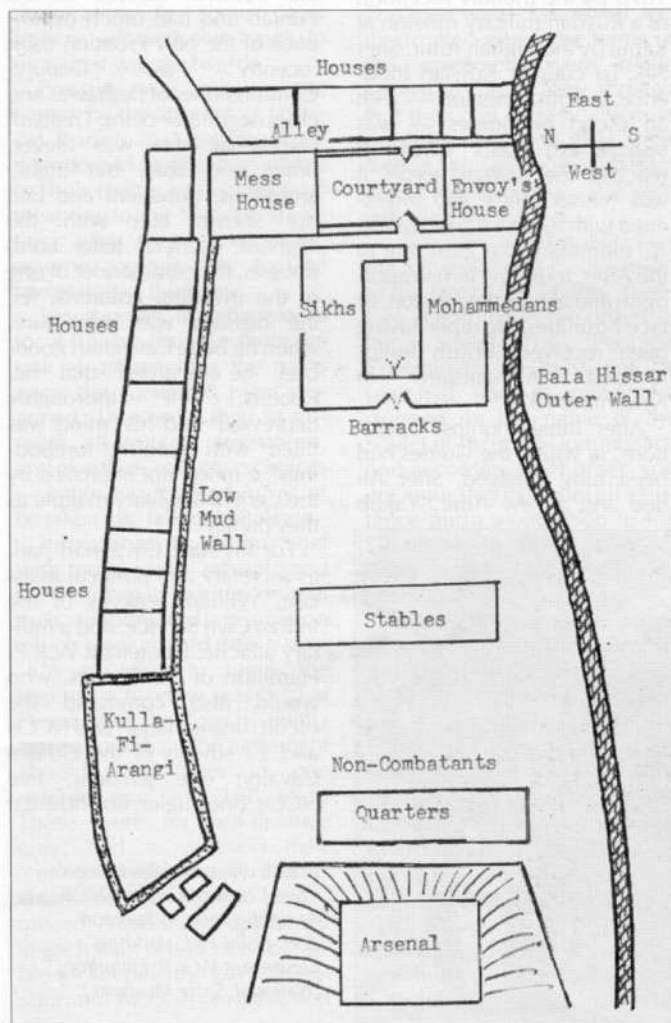
Richard Scollins' reconstruction shows Lieutenant Walter Hamilton leading a sally from the Residency supported by a Sikh officer of the Guides Cavalry and a Pathan sepoy of the Guides Infantry. See text for comment on dress and equipment.

pay was given out instead of the two they reckoned was owing. As the shouted insults and threats, towards both the Amir and the 'foreigners', grew in volume the regiment soon turned into a mutinous mob, stoning General Daud Shah, who attempted to reason with them, then unhorsing and bayoneting him. Joined by other troops and a rabble from the city, some made for the Amir's palace, where they were checked by loyal troops, others swarmed into the Residency's stable lines, stoning the sowars and grooms, looting and untying the horses. In the scuffles a few shots were fired and a Sikh sowar was cut down. Who fired the shots is not known, but the mob all rushed away to their barracks and the Arsenal for rifles and ammunition.

In the ensuing lull Hamilton, who hitherto had ordered no offensive action to be taken, had all the doors barricaded and got his men into the buildings, taking 20 on to the barrack-roof. This had a parapet which was quickly loopholed.

All too soon the Afghans, now numbered in thousands, returned. Some ran into the stables to butcher the horses, others opened a heavy fire into the compound from the Arsenal. The garrison, the four Britons and 73 Guides⁹, immediately returned the fire. Cavagnari himself accounted for the first Afghan to fall with a shot from the roof of his quarters, but soon after he received a slight head wound. It was now about 8.45.

Despite the Guides' effective musketry from the barrack roof, a large party of Afghans, covered from the Arsenal, established themselves in an enclosure of commanding ground called Kulla-Fi-Arangi, north-west of, and closer to, the Guides' barracks. Such a volume of fire, at something like 100 yards range, soon began to cause casualties and urgent retaliation was essential. Cavagnari, despite his wound, and the three British officers led 25 Guides in a sudden charge from the barracks. From his vantage point in the houses overlooking the compound, Nakshband Khan saw his charge and later recorded, 'The







The Amir, Yakub Khan (centre) with, to his right, Major Sir Louis Cavagnari and William Jenkyns. On his left is General Daud Shah, who was attacked by the mutinous Afghan regiments. (Private Collection.)

Afghan soldiers ran like sheep before a wolf¹⁰. Successful though this sally was, it only afforded a brief respite after which the Afghans resumed their position. Twice more the old Rissaldar-Major saw the Guides charge, though the first time without Cavagnari, who may have been wounded again, and the second without Kelly, who by now had numerous wounded to contend with. But after each charge the Afghans returned, Hamilton was just about to lead a fourth charge but had to hand over to Jemadar Jewand Singh. A new emergency had arisen.

In the east wall of the Residency courtyard a small doorway led into a narrow alley between the wall and the adjoining houses. Shortly before, this had been opened to pass out Ghulab Nabi, a former Guide now living in Kabul, who had offered to carry a message from Cavagnari to the Amir asking for help. He reached the palace but had not been allowed to return, so Cavagnari was unaware whether his message had got through. Now the Afghans were trying to force the doorway. Hamilton arrived in the nick of time with four sepoy to hold them off.

By this time the garrison was under continuous fire from east and west, and from the Kulla-Fi-Arangi at which no more charges could be made owing to the cost in casualties. Foiled at the doorway by the four Guides' resistance, the Afghans in the alley began hacking out a hole in the wall just south of it. Around 11am they got into the courtyard, though coming under immediate fire from the roofs of the two Residency buildings where part of the garrison now were, the balance being on the barrack roof.

However, the men on the Mess House roof, which had no parapet, soon faced a new threat as Afghans, covered by fire from the houses and the courtyard, brought up ladders to bridge the gap between their roof-top and the Mess House. After fierce hand-to-hand fighting, in which numbers of the defenders were killed, the Afghans gained a foothold around mid-day, forcing the survivors to retreat to the floor below from which they continued to fire upwards to prevent the enemy descending.

Though still under fire from the few Guides in Cavagnari's house, more and more Afghans were getting into the courtyard from where they set light to the woodwork in the Mess House's ground floor. On the barrack roof the defenders had come under almost point-blank fire from two guns, which had been manoeuvred into position north-west of the barracks, and their numbers were dwindling. Since nothing had come from the Amir, another message was sent by a Hindu servant but he was caught and cut to pieces.

By 2pm the blaze in the Mess House made it untenable. The only way out for its remaining defenders was to leap across the gap on to the barrack roof. This they did. Cavagnari, last seen lying doubled up on a bed in the Mess House tended by Kelly, must have perished in the flames, if he was not dead already, as his body was never found.

Sowar Taimus, a prince among his own people, but now only a trooper in the Guides Cavalry, volunteered to try and reach the Amir. He was captured, beaten, and taken before an Afghan general, Karim Khan, to whom he pleaded the plight of his comrades. The general replied he was

powerless and ordered Taimus to be detained. Thanks to the help of an Afghan sergeant, from whose back he removed a bullet, he managed to escape. After great hardship and much danger he eventually reached India to report all he had witnessed.

Some of the Guides still held out in the Envoy's house but the remainder, with the three British officers, were now in the barracks. This was divided from the Residency by an alleyway across which the Mess House defenders had jumped, and shut off from its courtyard by a door at the eastern end of its own central courtyard.

At about 3pm the Afghans moved one of their guns directly opposite the western entrance to the barrack courtyard and fired straight through at point-blank range to demolish the far doorway. The barracks was now open to assault from both ends.

Before the Afghans could act, Hamilton, with the other two officers and a handful of Guides, charged out, killing the crew and attempting to drag the gun back. But they were so few, and their enemies so numerous and scenting victory, that their endeavours were in vain. Some witnesses said three attempts were made to take the gun but, whatever the case, first Kelly was killed, then Jenkyns, the men with them, and finally Hamilton, surrounded and fighting alone at the gun, was cut down.

With all the British officers and the men in the barracks now dead, only the surviving Guides in the Envoy's house remained. One stirring but somewhat fanciful account¹¹ claims they were now under the sole surviving Indian officer, Jemadar Jewand Singh, but the Regimental History states

he had been killed earlier on the Mess House roof, as was the other Jemadar, Mehtab Singh. If so, command of the few remaining men must have fallen either to the cavalry dafadar, Hira Singh, or one of the infantry havildars, Hazara Singh or Hassan, or even one of the naiks. Whoever it was took command, he and his remaining comrades spurned all calls to surrender, all promises of safe conduct, all appeals to blood ties and religion, and fought on. Not until 8pm, twelve hours after the attack began, did the last man fall and the last shot was fired.

Of the original garrison, only seven escaped: the three cavalrymen who had been out with the grasscutters, the sepoy sent to the bazaar before the attack started, two sepoy and Sowar Taimus who had got out during the fight. The remainder, Sikhs and Mohammedans alike, had proved true to their salt and given their lives to defend that with which they had been entrusted.

News of the Mission's fate reached India early on 5 September. Five weeks later Roberts' Kabul Field Force marched through the city after an opposed advance and occupied the Bala Hissar. Yakub Khan, who had done nothing to aid his guests and whom some believed had condoned, if not instigated, the attack, had abdicated and surrendered himself to Roberts. An investigating commission and a military court were set up. Over the next month those found responsible for the attack on the Mission were hanged, ten at a time, from a gallows erected near the Residency ruins¹². As Cavagnari had told the old Rissaldar-Major, 'Our deaths will be avenged'.

DRESS, EQUIPMENT & WEAPONS

Most troops engaged in the Second Afghan War wore some form of khaki-coloured clothing¹³. It was the Corps of Guides which had first pioneered the use of such clothing over 30 years earlier. Writing in 1849 about how his new corps should be dressed, Lumsden pronounced: 'I have made up my mind to have all the Cavalry and Infantry in mud-colour'¹⁴, a

revolutionary departure from the reds, blues and greens of other Queen's and East India Company regiments. So much so that in a Frontier foray of the same year, the Guides were mistaken for tribesmen and would have been shelled, had not a gunner called out to his officer 'Lord, Sir, them is our mudlarks'¹⁵. The colour became known officially as 'drab'.

For obvious reasons there is no first-hand evidence of how the Guides appeared while defending the Kabul Residency, so their dress must be reconstructed from other pictorial records of the Guides at the time. All native ranks wore a 'lungi' or 'pagri' (turban) as headdress, tied according to their 'class', ie whether they were Sikh, Pathan, Punjabi Mussulman, etc. Those of the cavalry were blue and white, with gold stripes for native officers, the infantry having drab. Underneath the 'pagri' was worn a 'kulla' by Moham-medans and a 'pug' by Sikhs, which were white for cavalry, red for infantry.

In undress, normally worn on active service, the upper garment was the blouse-like 'kurta' in drab cotton drill, worn over loose trousers called 'pyjamas' in the same material. The Cavalry wore a red cummerbund. Leg and footwear for the cavalry were 'Napoleon' boots, covering the knee and cut away behind it, for the infantry drab puttees and native shoes.

A photograph of the Guides' British officers, including Hamilton and Kelly, taken in 1878, shows them in their undress uniform of drab frock with the regiment's red facings and fastened in front with five silver buttons, drab pantaloons (which in some cases appear paler than the frock), and knee boots. Headdress was the foreign service helmet fitted with silver spike and chin-chain; in the photograph some are white-covered with a 'pagri' striped like the cavalry native ranks'; others are drab-covered with a white 'pagri'.

All accoutrements were of brown leather, the cavalry having a pouch-belt and a waistbelt with a frog for the sword. At the time of the Afghan War the equipment of Indian infantry regiments was in a period of transition, from the old, 1857 pouch-belt pattern to the Indian version of the 1871 valise pattern¹⁶. Obviously it is impossible to say with certainty which pattern the Guides Infantry at the Residency had, but a photo-

graph of the Regiment's main body defending the Sherpur Cantonment at Kabul in the following December suggests the latter type. Officers wore the cavalry-type pouch-belt and a Sam Browne belt for sword and revolver, sometimes without the shoulder brace.

The most common sword in use, by both officers and sowars, seems to have had a curved blade with three-bar guard, leather scabbard with steel tip. There do seem to have been some variations to this, which contemporary photographs fail to make entirely clear. A watercolour by the war artist, Frederick Villiers, of Rissaldar Mahmud Khan (not at Kabul) shows him armed additionally with a Kyber knife thrust into his cummerbund and what appears to be a 'pepperbox' pistol. Carbines and rifles were of the Snider pattern, the latter with triangular-section, socket bayonet.

CONCLUSION

Although Roberts' re-occupation of Kabul had avenged the attack on the Mission, it did not solve the problem of the Amir nor end the war, which continued for another nine months. British troops did not finally leave Afghanistan until April 1881. By then a new Amir, Abdurrahman, had been installed. He consolidated his power over the country and remained on good terms with

British India until his death in 1901.

As for the Guides who had died defending the Residency against overwhelming odds, a memorial arch and tank was erected at their headquarters at Mardan to commemorate their heroism. On it were inscribed the names of all those who fell, and the words of the Commission which had investigated the whole affair: 'They do not give their opinion hastily, but they believe that the annals of no Army and no Regiment can show a brighter record of devoted bravery than has been achieved by this small band of Guides. By their deeds they have conferred undying honour, not only on the Regiment to which they belong, but on the whole British Army'.¹⁷

As those who know of, and remember, the great contribution to British arms made by generations of soldiers from the old Indian Empire now grow fewer with every year that passes, it is important that examples of their devotion to duty, like the Guides at Kabul, should not be forgotten. **MI**

Notes

1. Sir Henry Newbolt, *The Guides at Kabul*.
2. Lord Dalhousie, Governor-General, to the Guides, 24 March 1851.
3. See *MI/19*, p10.
4. Maj-Gen Sir Sidney Cotton, 2 Feb 1858.

5. See *MI/53*, p39.

6. FM Lord Roberts, VC, *Forty-One Years in India* (1900), p381.

7. The NCO ranks were: Cavalry: 1 Kote-Daffadar (troop-sergeant-major), 1 Daffadar (Sgt). Infantry: 3 Havildars (Sgt), 1 Naik (Cpl), 1 Lance-Naik.

8. Gazetted 7 October 1879.

9. The three cavalrymen with the grasscutters had not returned, one sepoy was in the bazaar, one had died the previous day.

10. Quoted *History of the Guides 1846-1922* (1908) p114.

11. Accounts vary as to the numbers executed — from 49 to 100. The Official History of the war gave 87.

12. See *MI/17*, p20, *MI/35*, p8.

13. Quoted Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research, Vol XXXI, p133.

14. *Idem*.

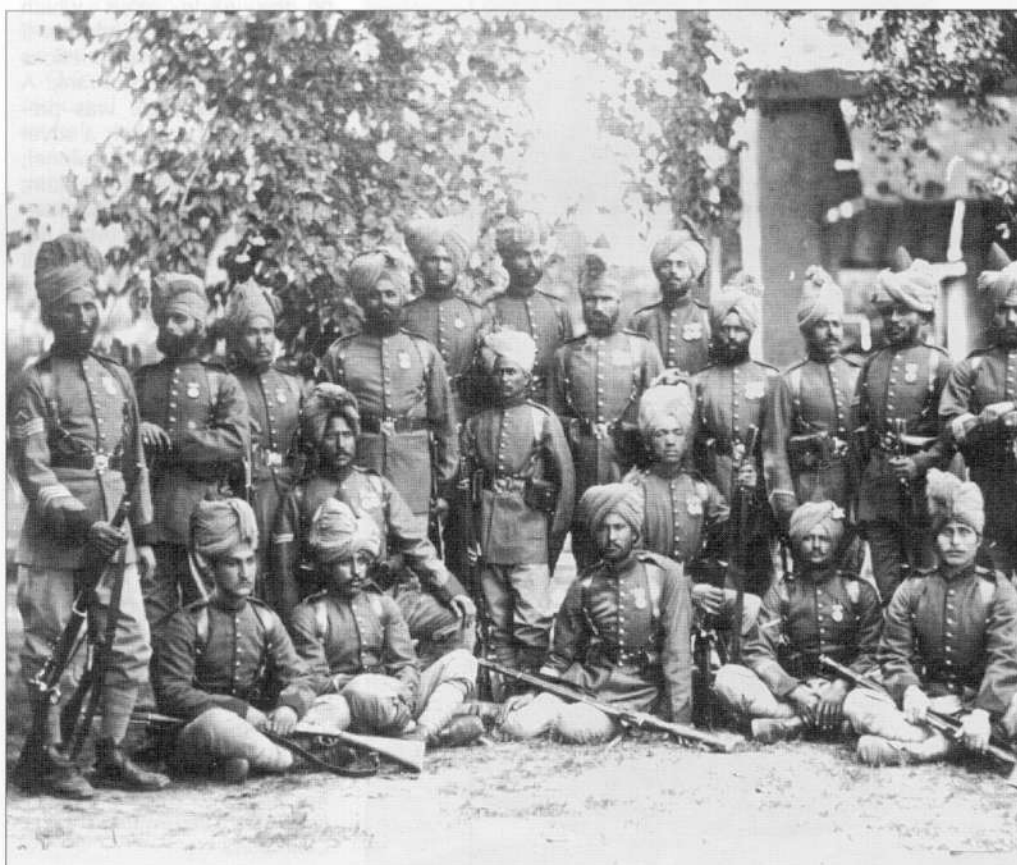
15. For further details, see *MI/35*, pp13,17.

16. Quoted *Guides History* (n10), p103. On partition of British India in 1947, the Guides went to the Pakistan Army, their Sikh and Hindu elements transferring to the new Indian Army.

Other reading

Besides the sources quoted in the Notes, the story features in other histories of the Afghan War, the most recent being Brian Robson's *The Road to Kabul* (1986). It also forms the finale of Molly Kaye's novel, *The Far Pavilions* (1978).

Types of the Queen's Own Corps of Guides (Infantry) in full dress. Photograph taken after the Afghan War. (Private Collection.)





'WALK-A-HEAPS'

Officers' uniforms of the 17th US Infantry, 1866-1890

JOHN P. LANGELLIER

FOLLOWING OUR article on enlisted men's uniforms in *MI/51*, we continue by examining the changes which took place among the comparable items of officers' wear during the same period.

OFFICERS' UNIFORMS underwent similar developments to that of the 17th Infantry's enlisted personnel during the period between 1866 to 1890. At the outset, the 1858 black hat was in use, but unlike those provided to the rank and file, the edges were bound and the body of a better material. Hat cords worn by officers differed, too, in that they were of interwoven black and gold silk threads which terminated in acorns. A hunting horn and eagle device of gold embroidery were affixed to the front and right side of the hat respectively, while three black ostrich feathers accented the hats of majors through colonels and two were to be employed by lieutenants through captains.

The coat for company grade officers was single-breasted and had nine large buttons which bore an 'I' on the shield of the eagle motif which appeared on these gilt buttons. Epaulettes for formal functions provided indication of rank. A silver spread eagle was prescribed for a colonel, a silver leaf for a lieutenant-colonel, double silver bars for a captain, while a single silver bar indicated a first lieutenant. Alas, the poor second lieutenant had a blank epaulette as did a major but the thickness of the fringe bullion which formed part of

these devices was larger in the latter instance. Another means of identifying a major, and for that matter all field grade officers, was the fact that they wore breasted frock coats which had seven buttons in each row for dress purposes. For less formal occasions such as fatigues, marches, campaigns and other garrison use, officers could do away with the epaulettes. In their place they employed shoulder straps with medium blue backing on which appeared the same basic form of ranking device as called for on the epaulette, the only exception being the major who had gold embroidered oak leaves at the end of each of his straps which in all cases were to be worn parallel with the shoulder seam. These could be sewn on or attached by flat cords similar to a modern shoestring or through certain other patented fastening devices.

Of course, for campaign and other duties of this nature, the four-button sack coat of the basic type issued to enlisted men was sanctioned. In many instances, however, officers opted to wear a nonregulation civilian sack that they simply fitted out with shoulder straps and sometimes officers' buttons.

The forage cap or a slouch hat could be used with the coat too. Sky-blue trousers with an eighth-inch dark blue welt, a black leather sword belt, and a crimson silk net sash which went around the waist in the same manner as enlisted men, with the exception of when the individual served as the officer of the day, were the other basic regulation components for the 'brass' until 1872.¹

In that year a cap which resembled the enlisted pattern was adopted. The trim was of gold lace and the insignia of gold embroidery. Moreover, white cock feathers attached by means of a tulip-shaped holder distinguished officers from their men.



Top left:

An 1879 general order discontinued the gold lace on officers' cuffs, otherwise the cut of the coat remained essentially the same as adopted in 1872. Some officers had the lace removed; others had new coats made. This specimen was worn by Captain Malcolm McArthur. (Glen Swanson Collection.)

Left:

This example of the 1884-1885 pattern officers' overcoat has one braid on each sleeve which indicates that the coat was tailored for a first lieutenant. (Glen Swanson Collection.)



A single-breasted dark blue wool frock coat with nine infantry officers' buttons on the chest was prescribed for second lieutenants through captains. Shoulder straps indicated rank for field and everyday duties while the forage cap was used in tandem in these instances or a non-regulation slouch hat substituted. Epaulettes were called for on formal occasions, as was the 1858 pattern officer's hat. The sword is the Model 1850 foot officers' sword for company grade officers. The sash was crimson silk. Light blue trousers were worn with a one-eighth inch dark blue welt along the outer seams. (US Army Military History Institute.)

The 1872 changes likewise included a double-breasted coat for all officers, with company grade officers having seven buttons in each row and field grade officers nine per row. In the former instance, two gold lace ornaments were sewn on each cuff and topped by small gilt infantry officer's buttons, while for the major, lieutenant-colonel and colonel, three gold lace designs adorned the cuffs. These accents remained in place until in 1879 general orders dictated that they would no longer be regulation after the start of 1880.²

Ultimately, officers had the trim removed to comply with this revision or had new coats made with plain cuffs. Moreover, knots with a blue background, embroidered in-

signia of rank, and silver embroidered regimental numerals were ushered in at this time as to indicate the grade and unit of the wearer. Further, the sash disappeared, as it had for non-commissioned officers, being replaced by a gold lace belt with three medium blue stripes for second lieutenants, first lieutenants, and captains, and of a solid band of gold lace for majors, lieutenant-colonels and colonels.

Sky-blue trousers with a 1½-inch dark blue stripe of facing material down the outer seams came into being in 1872. Black square-toed shoes and white berlin gloves were the other finery called for on dress parade, inspections, balls, and other formal occasions.³ When not on duty, the officer could replace his knots with shoulder straps which essentially remained unchanged from the previous pattern except for the fact that the bars for first lieutenants and captains were to be of silver embroidery rather than gold which was the practice before 1872. If straps were worn the dress cap was to give way to the forage cap, which had a leather chin strap until 1883 when gilt cord versions were brought into use.⁴

The forage cap likewise could be worn with the new five-button officer's jacket. This jacket was trimmed in black mohair around the collar, edges, and rear as well as having black mohair galloons on the sleeves and herringbones on the chest.

Once again, shoulder straps indicated rank. In 1875, the mohair was deleted from the jacket, although some individuals continued to have it applied to the collar and as edging down the front and around the skirt.⁵

For overcoats, the beautiful dark blue wool officer's cloak with black frogs on the chest, which had been regulation from 1851 through 1872, was to give way to a dark blue double-breasted coat ornamented by officer's eagle buttons. Rank was indicated by black mohair on the sleeves, with a plain sleeve being allotted to a second lieutenant, one flat silk

The 1872 pattern dress coat for company grade officers exhibited two gold lace ornaments on both cuffs. Small infantry officer's buttons surmounted the lace at the points. Field grade officers' coats bore three such devices. (Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum.)



A side view of the 1872 cap depicts how the cock feather attached through a small pressed metal holder to the front of the headpiece. This specimen has the hunting horn prescribed from 1872 through 1875. (National Archives.)

braid authorised for a first lieutenant, and so on through the colonel with five strands on his sleeves.

The earlier capote style, however, enjoyed great popularity and, as such, was reintroduced in a modified form in 1884 with the short-lived and optional matching hood. The following year, this 'ulster' pattern likewise had a slit added to the left side to accommodate

wearing an edged weapon with the garment, the slender Model 1860 staff and field sword being called for after 1872.⁶ This





The well turned out subaltern and captain from 1872 through 1881 wore a dress hat with tall cock feather plume, a double-breasted dark blue wool coat with seven infantry officer's buttons in each row, a gold lace belt, shoulder knots, light blue kersey trousers with a 1½-inch dark blue facing material stripe on the outer seams, a gold lace belt with three rows of blue running horizontally through it, white berlin gloves, and a model 1860 staff and field officer's sword. (US Army Military History Institute.)

badge of office attached to straps with swivel metal hooks as part of a black leather sword belt required in those instances when the gold lace belt for the dress coat was not in service. Regardless of which model of

the overcoat was in use, a dark blue wool cape with sky-blue lining with a frog of black mohair and black velvet collar was also available and could be worn directly over a blouse or dress coat too.

Overcoats could be worn in tandem with forage caps or with the fur cap adopted in 1879. There was also an option for fur overcoats, most usually buffalo, for extremely cold climates and field operations in winter. Additionally, the 1872 and 1876 campaign hats issued to enlisted men were authorized for officers with most uniform combinations, except full dress, although in the former instance the quality was better than that of the other ranks and a binding regularly was sewn around the outer edge of the brim. Summer helmets, covered in fine white wool material rather than drill, as was the case for the enlisted men, could be donned in the hot season.⁷ A privately purchased straw hat could be substituted in certain instances.

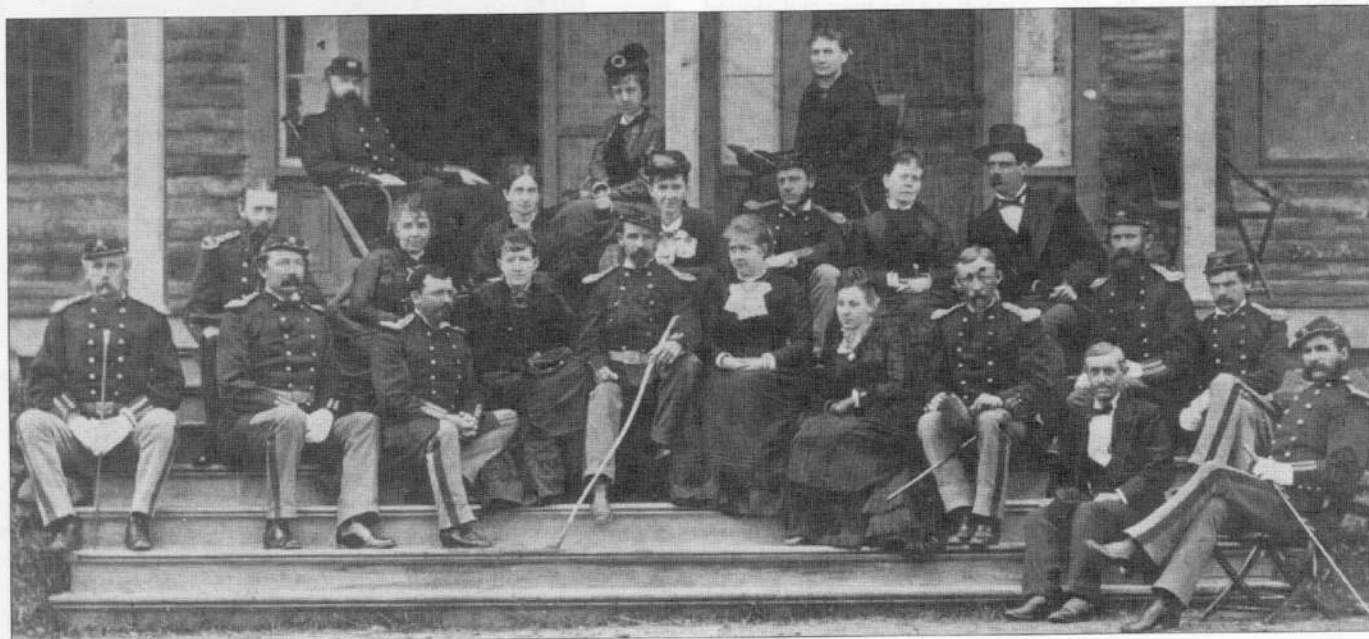
Another type of headgear appeared in 1881, when a new design of dress helmet with cork body covered in dark blue cloth was prescribed for officers of the combat arms.⁸ Company grade officers had a spike and field grade officers, as well as the regimental adjutant, sported yak or buffalo hair plumes of

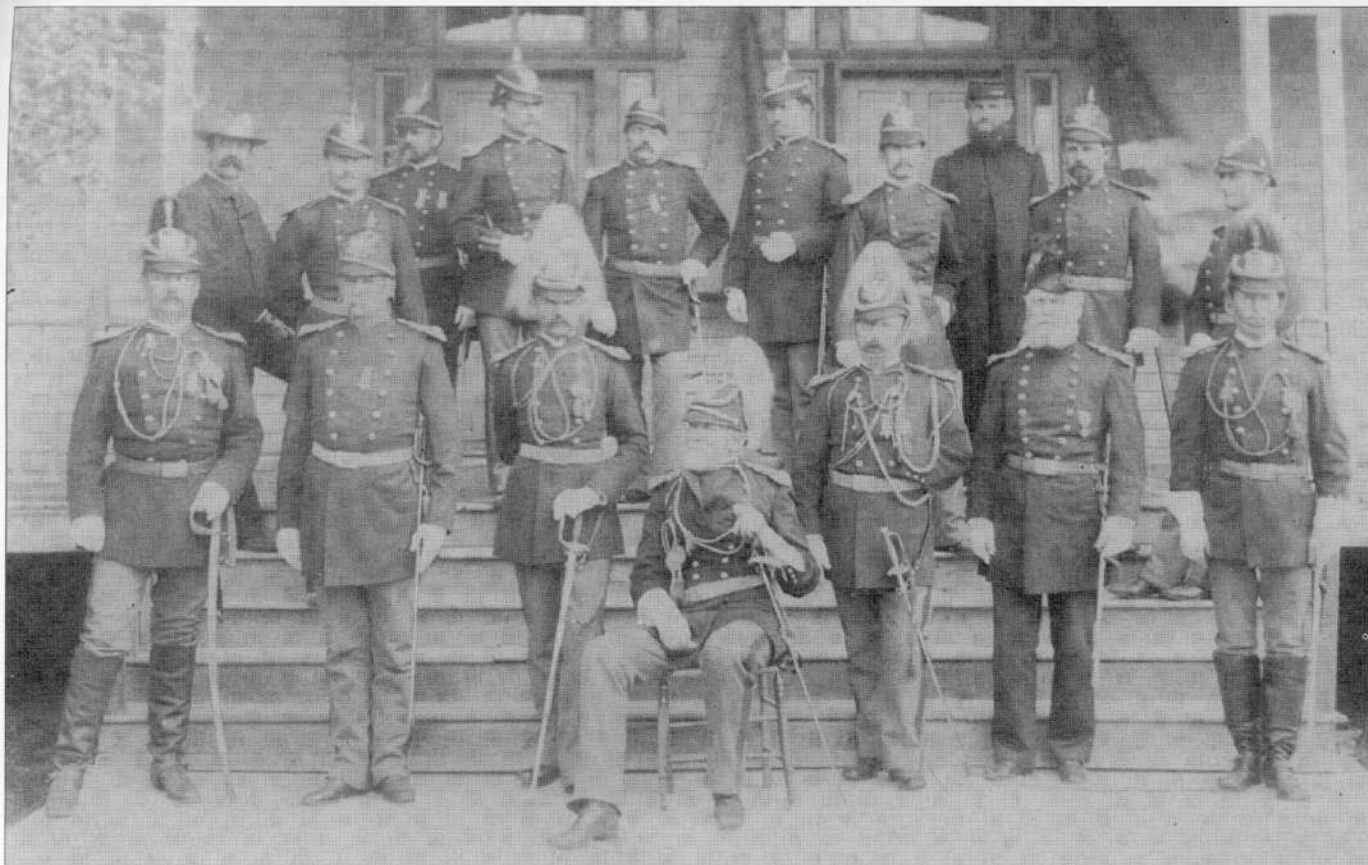
white. The adjutant likewise had aiguillettes attached to his right shoulder knot or affixed underneath it (a practice which began in 1872). All officers who wore the helmet with plume had a gold chest cord and festoon on the headgear itself.

The white plume, and likewise the white cock feathers on the old 1872 dress cap, presaged the change of the infantry's facings to white from blue, a switch which took place in 1884.⁹ This meant that during that year backgrounds to shoulder knots and shoulder straps were to change to white, as were trouser stripes. Eventually the light blue lining of capes for officers was exchanged although dark blue for enlisted personnel's capes as well as overcoat chevrons remained regulation through the turn of the century. The reason for this shift was the fugitive nature of dyes during the period used to produce blue facing. On the other hand, white soiled easily so that the new branch colour had its drawbacks too.

The switch to white was the last major modification for officers, however, until 1892 and 1895 when two new styles of blouse were adopted in quick

Officers of both the 17th and 6th Infantry Regiments, along with family, friends, and the post surgeon, gathered in front of quarters at Fort Abraham Lincoln, Dakota Territory, for this mid-1870s group portrait. All have opted to replace the ungainly dress cap with the forage cap, this practice being allowed for off-duty purposes. In such instances, shoulder straps could replace shoulder knots. All wear the 1872 pattern dress coat. (Glen Swanson Collection.)





This 1881-1884 view of a number of the 17th Infantry's officers at Fort Yates, Dakota Territory, depicts the commanding colonel (seated centre) and many of his subordinates. The colonel wears the white buffalo or yak hair plumed helmet prescribed for field grade officers in 1881 and also for the regimental adjutant (to his left with the gold augillettes that formed part of his distinctive accessories). The men in spiked helmets were company grade officers. A number of them wear medals which indicate that they were members of the Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War veterans' organisation. The individual in the *chapeaux de bras* is the post surgeon, the man in the back row with the dark single-breasted coat and forage cap is the post chaplain, and the pair of officers with plumed helmets on either end of the front row are members of the 7th Cavalry. (Glen Swanson Collection.)

succession. A new sloping visor style forage cap also was introduced in 1895 (see MI/34 for more on the infantry officers' uniform during the late 1890s through the turn of the century). Otherwise, the smartly attired brass of the 17th Infantry spent the mid-1880s through the late-1890s in the same basic kit. All that would be swept away, however, when the United

States entered its 'splendid little war'. In 1898, khaki would be ushered in and with its coming the beginning of the end for the old 'US Army Blue' began. **MI**

Notes

1. This pre-1872 section was based upon photographic evidence of the era and *Revised Uniform Regulations of the United States Army, 1861* (Philadelphia: George W. Childs, 1862).
2. General Order No 76, 23 July 1879, Adjutant General's Office, Washington, DC, hereinafter cited as GO, No, date, AGO.
3. Unless otherwise indicated, information related to the 1872 through 1881 uniform was taken from GO No 91, 26

October 1872, AGO, Washington, DC.

4. GO No 102, 26 December 1883, AGO, Washington, DC.

In point of fact, since the 1870s, officers purchased such straps for their caps and wore them until regulations eventually sanctioned the impracticable.

5. GO No 96, 19 November 1875, AGO, Washington, DC.

6. See GO No 117, 21

October 1884, AGO, Washington, DC and GO No 8, 21 January 1885, AGO, Washington, DC, respectively.

7. See Gordon Chappell, *Summer Helmets of the US Army, 1875-1910* (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Museum Monograph No 1, 1967) for more details on the

development of this type of headdress.

8. Gordon Chappell, *Brass Spikes and Horsehair Plumes: A Study of US Army Dress Helmets, 1872-1903* (Tucson: Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society, 1966), 18-46, offers more on this pattern of dress helmet.

9. GO No 120, 24 October 1884, AGO, Washington, DC.

In this circa 1890 image an infantry officer strolls in front of quarters at Fort Assiniboine, Montana. He has on the 1880 pattern officers' sun helmet. The white-backed shoulder straps and trouser stripes became regulation in 1884. He wears the sword belt outside the blouse. (National Archives.)



Uniforms of the SS by Andrew Mollo (& Hugh Page Taylor, in part); Windrow & Greene; Volumes 1 to 6, respectively (1) *Allgemeine-SS, 1923-45*, 80pp; (2) *Germanische-SS, 1940-45*, 84pp; (3) *SS-Verfügungstruppe, 1933-39*, 112pp; (4) *SS-Totenkopfverbände, 1933-45*, 64pp; (5) *Sicherheitsdienst & Sicherheitspolizei, 1931-45*, 64pp; and (6) *Waffen-SS Clothing and Equipment, 1939-45*, 144pp; all £16.95

The facsimile reprints of this important, indeed seminal series of reference books, first published more or less privately in small editions between 1968 and 1976, have now reached the sought-after Volume 6. (We understand that Volume 7 may appear next year, but that it presents some technical difficulties and will probably be more highly priced.) Students of Third Reich subjects will be familiar with its reputation; it is probably the most authoritative commentary ever published in English, impeccably sourced and annotated, and including many rare photographs. The publishers of this series of editions have chosen to price all volumes at £16.95 rather than risk the confusion of individually pricing the volumes, which have been handsomely rejacketed in a constant style. Given the rarity of the information contained in, eg, the *Totenkopfverbände* and *SD* volumes, even these slimmer books are not too expensive by the standards of today's hardbacks; while the thicker volumes such as Vol 3 and Vol 6 represent excellent value.

Andrew Mollo's international reputation needs no polishing here; no serious student can afford to be without this important series. It has been reproduced almost exactly as it first appeared, except that the small number of colour illustrations scattered throughout some of the original editions have had to be reproduced in monochrome, with colour-descriptive captions; in Vols 1 — with the most colour — and 6, new coloured endpapers support the mono reproductions. Printing is generally of good quality; though some of the rarer photographs were inevitably rather fuzzy in the original editions, they do not seem to this reviewer to have suffered significantly during the facsimile process.

Apart from pure uniform and insignia information, of course, the series is invaluable as a guide to the organisation and (briefly) the history of these sometimes very complex services.

Mr Mollo has provided an updated Errata and Addenda section in each of these new editions, and these repay careful study, though it is surprising how little has had to be changed over the passage of some 20 years during which many other researchers have been following the path he blazed — a tribute to the thoroughness and breadth of

BOOK REVIEWS

his original work.

This series is highly recommended to specialists in this subject; and our pleasure at their wider availability far outweighs our sympathy for those individuals who have recently been charging up to four times this price for the very rare first editions.

Invincible Generals by Philip J. Haythornthwaite. Firebird Books; ISBN 1-85314-105-4; 240pp; ill throughout; references, chronologies, bibliographies & index; £19.95.

After so many 'glossy' hardbacks on famous commanders and battles, it is automatic to be wary of a book with a title such as *Invincible Generals*, because it suggests more of the same menu: appetising in appearance, unsatisfactory in substance. *Don't be put off!* Philip Haythornthwaite's work is sufficiently well known to 'MI' readers that it would warrant a second look anyway, and Firebird Books themselves are steadily carving a secure niche in the military publishing world with titles complementary to Osprey's or, in the good old days, Blandford's.

This is a well-written, well-researched and well-illustrated book (albeit with no colour plates), covering five (almost) invincible military captains from the transition era of the 17th to the 19th centuries. It begins with Gustavus Adolphus and continues through Marlborough and Frederick the Great to Washington and Wellington. The story thus encompasses not just the rapid changes in weaponry — from pike and smooth-bore matchlock to bayonet and rifled flintlock — but all the innovations in tactics and, indeed, in the entire character of warfare over that significant 200-year span.

This is where Philip Haythornthwaite and his publishers score over other books which look superficially similar. It is not just five 'potted' biographies (although there is biographical information and sufficient references to enable anyone to pursue a favourite subject further); it is a study of the evolution of warfare over a critical period, as experienced by five of its greatest exponents.

A fascinating read, well illustrated with prints, paintings, sketches, maps and diagrams which will appeal to anyone with an interest in what is usually known as the 'horse and musket' period, although Mr Haythornthwaite himself chooses to call it 'sword and musket'. Whatever, we can still recommend it!

Berlin Then and Now by Tony Le Tissier; *After the Battle*; 472pp, illustrated throughout; index; £39.95

It only seems a few months since we received *After the Battle's* remark-

able book on the 1940 campaign for review; yet here is another of Winston Ramsey's huge, lavishly illustrated, impeccably researched, and excellently produced source books. The format will be familiar: concise text, long captions full of specific detail, and around 2,000 monochrome photographs matching wartime views with present day equivalents, supported where necessary by clear plans and diagrams. The length of time which must be spent in careful research, let alone the sheer professional labour of putting the books together, is very impressive indeed, as is the depth of background knowledge. Forty pounds is good value for this extraordinary product.

The book covers the capital in the Weimar period, and during the rise of Nazism, with fascinating details of Speer's monumental public buildings; the city under allied air attack; the events of 20 July 1944; and the defence of Berlin against the final Russian offensive. The final sections cover the city under occupation, the Berlin Airlift, the post-war division, and finally the collapse of the GDR and the reunification. Under these main headings will be found a feast of detail. (The thought occurs that no novelist setting his thriller in the wartime or postwar capital can now afford to be without this essential source.) This is an original, expertly produced work of history, and is very highly recommended.

Timber Castles by Robert Higham & Philip Barker, Batsford; ISBN 0-7134-2189-4, 390pp; 221 mono plates, drawings & maps; gazetteer of sites, bibliography & index; £4.50.

With this book the authors have produced a work of scholarship that is also easily understood by the interested layman. The illustrations are excellent and include several fascinating reconstructions. Although a broad background to the subject is supplied, the main emphasis of the book is on the British Isles and France. This could be seen as a shame since timber fortifications played a relatively more important role in eastern Europe, the Balkans and Russia — or at least retained their importance for longer. Within these limitations, however, the book could hardly be more comprehensive. As part of the now well established Batsford series on Archaeology, the evidence of the trowel, surveyor and aerial photographer naturally takes pride of place. Nevertheless documentary evidence and that supplied by pictorial sources is not neglected. Altogether this book should be seen as a work of reference and not as another coffee-table tome. It might be too bulky to carry around, but I can imagine the serious castle explorer consulting it with great care, note books in hand, before

venturing out onto the mottes, baileys and ditches described in such obviously loving detail.

Osprey Men-at-Arms series; all 48pp, approx 35 mono ill, eight colour plates; £6.50

MAA 247: Romano-Byzantine Armies, 4th-9th Centuries by David Nicolle, plates by Angus McBride.

The established format for this team provides an authoritative text by Dr Nicolle on the historical trends, the organisation and tactics of the armies, and their costume, armour and weapons; black and white illustrations combining photos of artistic and sculptural evidence, neat line drawings of archaeological finds, photos of surviving buildings and reconstructions of others; and eight superbly vivid colour plates of groups of figures by Mr McBride. The latter are atmospheric and full of interest, with many ideas for modellers. One quibble — the selection of shield patterns from the *Notitia Dignitatum* would have been a great deal more use with colour notes or key, even given the doubts over the colouring in surviving copies. Nevertheless, good value.

MAA 251: Medieval Chinese Armies 1260-1520 by C.J. Peers, plates by David Sque.

The text offers a historico-political summary, a useful chronology, more detailed historical accounts of the Yuan dynasty armies, the 14th century civil wars, the Ming armies, and sections on technology, strategy and tactics, finished by illustrative accounts of six significant battles. Mr Peers' sources are impressive; perhaps inevitably, the black and white illustrations are a little thin, though providing photos of sculptural, artistic and archaeological evidence together with some rather unpleasant little maps. The plates, by an artist new to this reviewer, are very clean and full of detail, with some fascinating 'gunpowder' troops among others; I suspect we will be seeing more of Mr Sque's work.

MAA 252: Flags of the American Civil War (1): Confederate by Philip Katcher, plates by Rick Scollins.

There isn't very much to say about this book — it is exactly what it claims to be, and a useful, clearly organised, and apparently fairly comprehensive reference. If you are interested in the war, this should be on your shelf; it seems authoritative, and the mixture of reconstructions with photos of surviving captured colours allows, eg wargamers and modellers to use it with confidence. The plates are necessarily without much variation, since this volume covers only national, as opposed to individual state-generated flags which follow in a forthcoming MAA; but they are clear, and give plenty of specific examples of battle flags.

John Palmer Brabazon

STUART W. ALLEN

Paintings by DOUGLAS ANDERSON

POPULARLY KNOWN as 'Bwab', and much sought after in London society, John Palmer Brabazon enjoyed a distinguished career as a cavalry officer in India, the Sudan and South Africa, but was not always so popular with his superiors.

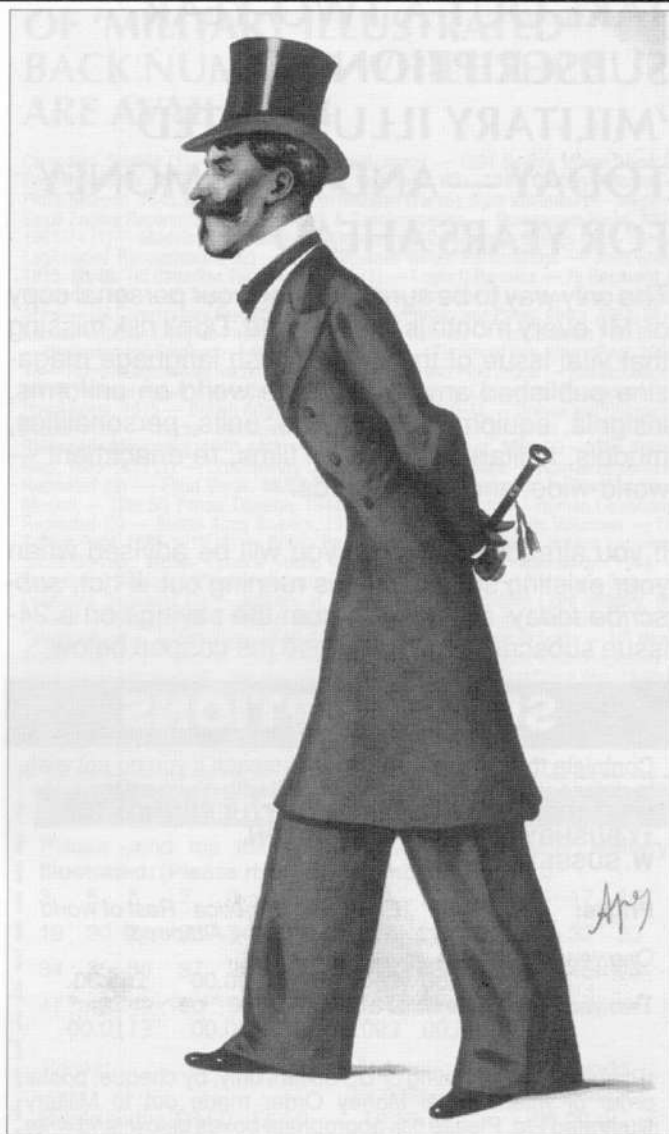
THE SERVICES do not function in a social vacuum; with some notable exceptions, the holder of senior rank in the British Army has enjoyed similar status in society. This was particularly true of the cavalry in the Victorian period, when the prospect of life in a fashionable regiment attracted many young officers of name. One such young gentleman was John Palmer Brabazon, whose personal brand of style and wit was to win fame as much in London society as in military circles. A stream of published anecdotes bear witness to his celebrated idiosyncrasies. Yet his distinguished service record suggests that Brabazon's campaign experience and professional abilities were valued by his superiors ahead of any social standing.

After initial service with the 16th Lancers and the 69th (South Lincolnshire) Regiment, Brabazon made his name with the 10th Hussars. Serving with distinction in the 2nd Afghan War and in the Sudan campaigns of 1884 to 1885, promotion and decoration swiftly came his way. In 1891 Lieutenant-Colonel Brabazon was given command of the 4th Hussars, and his achievements with that regiment earned him an extra year of command. He last saw active service, as Major-General, in the South African War, an experience which proved far more satisfactory.

In society, Brabazon's rise to celebrity status was similarly impressive, *Vanity Fair* deemed him 'the most complete and faultless dandy of our time'. His inability to pronounce the letter 'r', taken by some to be a conscious decision, earned him much mimicry and the nickname 'Bwab'. In combination with a certain sarcasm, which he rarely hesitated to employ, this rather frivolous image inevitably incurred the distaste of some in Army circles. Sir Evelyn Wood, commanding at Aldershot, established mutual animosity by

insisting that Brabazon shave off the non-regulation beard which he had sported as something of a trophy since his days in India. Colonel Charles Metcalfe Macgregor, Chief of Staff to Lord Roberts in Afghanistan, was similarly unimpressed and appears to have expended considerable energy in attempting to climb a certain ridge in a time faster than that recorded by the young upstart². It must be said that Brabazon did little to appease potential enemies. Newly ensconced as Colonel of the 4th Hussars, and greeted with the suspicion that the late champion of a rival regiment reasonably might expect, he dispensed with diplomacy to demand of the Mess President, 'And what chemist do you get this champagne fwom?'³.

Despite his reputation as a leader of society, he was not a wealthy man. His family was of lesser Irish gentry, and their financial situation determined that he must maintain his image and position on a limited budget. This did not always prove possible; financial difficulties forced him to sell his commission in the 69th in 1873. Friends in high places then proved useful. The patronage of the Prince of Wales and of Sir Garnet Wolseley first won him a place on the latter's 1874 Ashanti Expedition as a special service volunteer, and ultimately facilitated his commission in the 10th Hussars. Wolseley may have been motivated by a personal debt to the Brabazon family, for during Sir Hope Grant's expedition to North China in 1860 Wolseley's place on an escort mission to Tung-chow was at the last minute given to Captain Luke Brabazon, John's elder brother. Though sent out under a flag of truce, the elder Brabazon's party was taken hostage and he was beheaded by the Chinese on the bridge at Pa-li-cheaou. In any case, the younger brother earned his reward in the Ashanti campaign. Serving with Captain Butler's column in



'Bwab' by Apey, as *Vanity Fair*'s 'Man of the Day', 29 May 1886. (Trustees of the National Library of Scotland.)

Western Akim, he was not involved in the main advance but was credited with taking an enemy village.

Brabazon swiftly found himself a Lieutenant in the agreeable company of the 10th Hussars, then stationed at Rawalpindi, with plenty of opportunity for polo and pig-sticking. It is from this time that a tangible memento of his career survives. A double-barrelled cavalry pistol, numbered 6737, now in the Scottish United Services Museum in Edinburgh Castle, is one of a pair purchased by Lieutenant Brabazon from James Wilkinson & Son of Pall Mall in 1877. The 577 centre fire Wilkinson pistols were commonly acquired by cavalry officers bound for India, for both military and hunting use. Their large calibre and simple action

were valued for stopping power and efficiency and Brabazon thought them superior to the revolver. He later attested, 'A pistol carries a heavier bullet and efficaciously stops your man. Lieutenant Lord Airlie told me he owed his life at Abu Klea to my having given him one of my pistols with which he shot the man who wounded him; he dropped him dead.'⁴

Brabazon soon had opportunity to test his new purchase. In the 2nd Afghan War his squadron first operated with the Kurram Valley Field Force under Major General Roberts, and supported an important frontal feint in the capture of the Peiwar Kotal stronghold on 2 December 1878. Further engagements followed during the advance up the Khost Valley, notably at Matun Fort and Futehabad. The latter victory forced a short-lived Afghan surrender, but the regiment's return to India was not triumphant. In what became known as 'The Dead March', an attack of cholera claimed 54

lives. Brabazon retained his health, as he had done in similar circumstances back in Western Akim, and when fighting again broke out in July 1879 he left behind his weakened regiment and returned to the front. On this campaign he served with distinction as Brigade Major of Cavalry and, along with the actions at Charasiah, Sherpur, and Kabul, experienced a second gruelling march in General Roberts' famous progress from Kabul to Kandahar.

In 1884 the regiment was on its way back to England when rebellion broke out in the Sudan. Diverted to Suakim, the 10th joined Sir Gerald Graham's attempt to relieve the Egyptian garrison at Tokar. In the ensuing battle at El Teb the cavalry advanced to draw fire away from the infantry square, fell back, and then charged to great effect. Brabazon sustained a slight wound, but it did not prove sufficiently serious to prevent him from commanding the Cavalry Brigade's second line in the fierce fighting at

Tamai 13 days later. Having been mentioned in despatches and promoted to Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel, he was an obvious choice to lead the 10th Hussars' contingent on the expedition to Khartoum the following year. His posturing was not in any way restrained by the rigours of life with the Desert Column, as reported by a young Lieutenant of Artillery who declared himself startled by the scent emanating from a handkerchief flourished by Brabazon shortly after the calamitous action at Abu Klea.⁵

When the South African War broke out in 1899 he was given command of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade. He soon incurred the displeasure of General French, perhaps provoked by his failure to hold covering positions near the Naawpoort to Arundel railway in December, and certainly aggravated by his habitual sarcasm. Careless words reached French's ears, and Brabazon's subsequent promotion to the temporary rank of Major General Commanding the Imperial Yeomanry may well have been an exercise in wing clipping. He later warmly praised these irregular troops, but because the six Yeomanry regiments were not kept together his command was little more than nominal. The fighting that

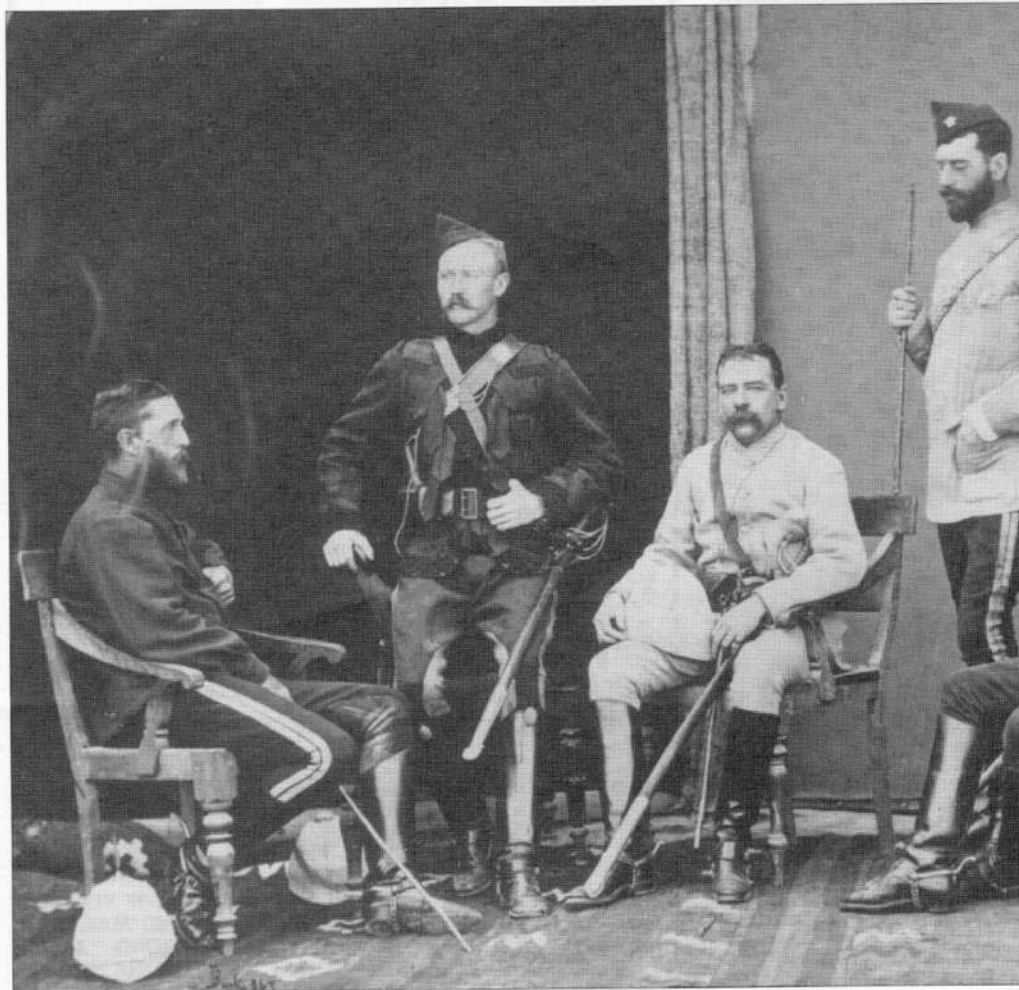
he did see failed to impress him. Like many older soldiers of his day, he did not care for an enemy who declined to come out into the open. He was also appalled at the notion of British troops raising the white flag. Complaining that in the other campaigns of his experience it would have been unthinkable, not to say useless, he remarked, 'The regrettable occurrences would not have occurred if the first man who used the white flag, not being the senior officer, had been shot dead. I never saw so much bad fighting in the whole course of my life as I did in South Africa.'⁶

Major General Sir John Palmer Brabazon KCB, CVO, Colonel of the 18th Hussars, died at Montreux in 1922 aged 79. One can only guess what he might have thought of the Great War. He doubtless would have mourned the passing of cavalry as a significant attacking force. Though aware of its limitations, he was a confirmed advocate of the charge, believing particularly in its power to shock and demoralise. To this end he was fond of suggesting that cavalry be armed with light war axes, or tomahawks, to be carried in front of the saddle. Eccentricities aside, his was a view which belonged to a past age. He had seen too much real

Douglas Anderson's reconstructions on the back cover show, right: Major Brabazon, 10th Hussars, at El Teb, Sudan, 19 January 1884.

He wears the special regimental drill frock designed and made in India with concealed buttons; the Colonial pattern helmet with spike and curb chain; blue pantaloons with a double yellow stripe; dark blue puttees and black boots. The pouch belt is black leather with the regimental gilt chain pattern, leopard's head boss, chains and pickers. He also wears a Sam Browne belt with pistol case and ammunition case. Over his right shoulder is a haversack and Oliver pattern water bottle. He is carrying his light cavalry pattern sword and sabretache on slings underneath the frock. Left: Major-General Brabazon commanding Imperial Yeomanry, South Africa, 1899. Wearing a slouch terai hat, Brabazon is in the standard khaki uniform for all foreign stations except Canada, with red staff tabs on the collar. He has khaki drill trousers tucked into riding boots and standard Sam Browne belt with pistol case and ammunition case. (The author and artist would like to thank Michael Barthorp for his help in reconstructing these two figures.)

Lieutenant Brabazon, second from right, with General Hugh Gough and Cavalry Brigade Staff, Afghanistan, 1879. (Courtesy of the Director, National Army Museum.)



fighting to think war truly glamorous, but the defensive tactics of the Boers, and mechanised war in the trenches, signalled an end to the manner of soldiering he knew and in which he had excelled. In the new conditions of conflict social rank would continue to matter a great deal, but to be a soldier was rarely again to be at the height of fashion. **M**

Notes

- 1 *Vanity Fair Album*, No 18, Vanity Fair Ltd, London, 1886, p360.
- 2 Tousdale, W., (ed), *War in Afghanistan 1879-1880. The Personal Diary of Major General Sir Charles Metcalfe* Macgregor, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, 1985, p202.
- 3 Churchill, W.S., *My Early Life*, Butterworth, London, 1930, p83.
- 4 Kitchener, Major H.E.C., 'Revolvers and their use', *Royal United Services Institution Journal*, July 1886, p970.
- 5 Adye, Sir John, *Soldiers and Others I Have Known*, Herbert Jenkins, London, 1925, p120.
- 6 *Royal Commissioners on the War in South Africa. Minutes of Evidence. Volume 1*, London, 1903, p299.

John Palmer Brabazon

Major-General, South Africa, 1899



Major, Sudan, 1884

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Douglas N. Anderson.